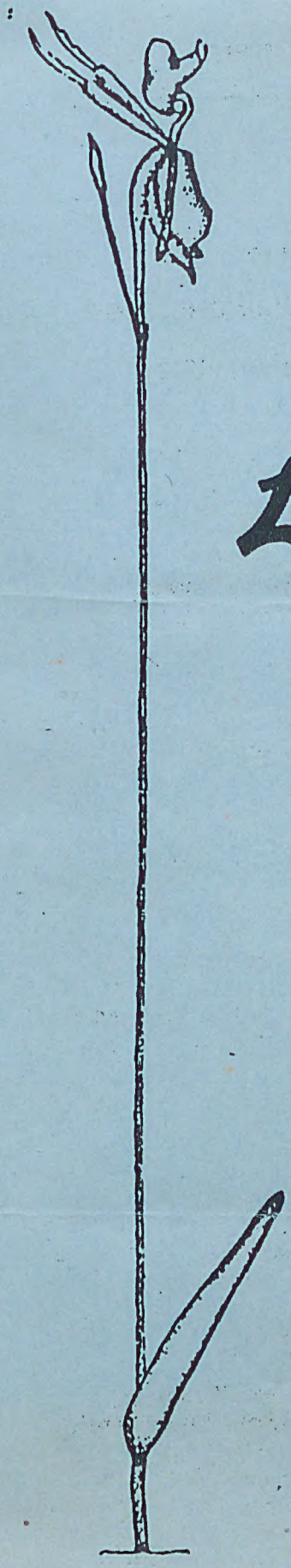
JANUARY 1990

ISSUE No 313



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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85¢

COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY FNC INC

Meeting: Friday, January 19 at 7.30 pm

Speaker: Members' slide night "The Best of 1989"

Excursion: Australia Day Weekend January 26-29
Annual campout at Licola
See page 4 for details

Bird group:

Meeting: Monday, February 5.

Meeting place: 10 am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Yallourn North Road for excursion to Wirilda.

Warragul FNC Contact Secretary for details

Friends of Morwell National Park

February 18 Weeding out Purple-top Verbena in Billy's Creek.
Meet at 1.30 at the end of Tebb Terrace.

Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm
Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building
37 Elgin St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

THE BAIRNSDALE WEEKEND

On September 15th and 16th members were invited to join the Bairnsdale Club for their monthly meeting and excursion. Mr Leon Costermanns was the speaker who gave a very interesting talk on the Trees and Shrubs of Victoria and their relationship to the geology and climate of areas of the State.

The excursion was to Mt. Elizabeth; a very interesting area with its own special plants. The trip from Bairnsdale to the Mt. Elizabeth turnoff was highlighted by wattles in full bloom. From then on the excursion stopped at many places to observe the plants. Following the talk the previous evening the change of eucalypts from the north and the south sides of the mountain, as the road wound around, was quite obvious. Some plants needed a special habitat, like the Showy Boronia (B.ledifolia) which covered an upper rocky section for quite a distance, but only occurred in that area for the whole day. It was a sight to behold. At another stop the Pomaderris - probably P.lanigera - again formed a block, but this time it appeared to start on an almost straight line. These examples illustrated the talk of the previous evening.

There were two special wattles for us, the Red Wattle (Acacia silvestris) (red because of the colour of the timber) which produces very bright yellow masses of flowers and feathery leaves; and the Red-stem Wattle (Acacia rubida) with its sickle-shaped leaves drooping to expose bright yellow racemes of flowers. The wattle list for the day included 11 species in flower and one with pods.

In the lower portion of the mountain there were many many flowers that grow in heath country and that we are familiar with like Pink Beard-heath, Blue Dampiera, Hairy Pink-bell, Daphne Heath, Common Heath, Silky Hakea, Slender Rice-flower, Nodding Greenhoods, Blunt Greenhood, Tiny Greenhood, Pink Fingers and Blue Caladenias and many others.

However, as we climbed the twisting mountain road we were shown other plants that were special to the area. These included the Wallaby-bush (Beyeria lasiocarpa) a tall shrub with long dark green leaves, separate male and female flowers with no petals (not flowering now) but with interesting fruits that were globular and bristly hairy. The Tree Hakea (H. eriantha) produced its white flowers but still retained its fruits with their hooked beaks that made identification easier. The Trailing Guinea-flower (Hibbertia empetrifolia) provided ground cover over quite an area with its reddish stems and ¼" bright yellow flowers with notched petals. The Hairy Mint Bush (Prostanthera hirtula) was just beginning to bloom so that there were very few of the deep purple flowers amongst the small hairy leaves.

Climbing up the final rise from the cars to the top of Mt. Elizabeth was not very far but it was quite steep. However the view from the top was worth the climb. That is to say nothing of the special flowers up there. The most colourful was the Long-leaf Hovea (H. longifolia) * which was a shrub of approximately four feet high. A special shrub was the Mt. Elizabeth Phebalium (P.frondosum) with oval leaves of

cont.p.2.....

THE BAIRNSDALE WEEKEND cont.....

approximately 2 cm. long with many glands on the upper surfaces. Although the leaves were not exactly opposite they were in one plane which gave the branchlets a frond-like appearance. Most of the plants were only in bud but we did find a few starry-white flowers. The Rare Guinea-flower (Hibbertia hermanniifolia) was another surprise as it was a shrub of 4-5 feet and was just beginning to flower. The Royal Grevillea (G. victoriae) was different from plants we know at Mt. Useful. Here the flowers were smaller and more salmon pink than scarlet; but the blooms were much more numerous. Other interesting plants, not in flower, included the Lemon Bottlebrush (Callistemon pallidus) on top of the mount and not near a stream; and the Tall Acrotriche (A.divaricata) apply named as these plants were approximately 4 feet high with sharp pointed leaves. This plant belongs to the same genus as Honeypots.Also on Mt. Elizabeth we heard the calls of the male and female Pilot Birds.

Further round the mount were Monkey Mint-bush (Prostanthera walteri) with its distinctive leaves so that we could identify it without its unusual greenish flowers streaked with purple; and the Narrow-leaf Logonia (L.albiflora) with its very tiny white flowers and blackish buds.

On the way down the mountain we stopped several times to admire more flowers. This was where the Showy Boronia bloomed so spectacularly. The Rock Waxflower (Eriostemon trachyphyllus) was a tall shrub or small tree with the characteristic oil glands on the leaves. We were tricked by the Prickly Parrot-pea (Dillwynia juniperina) until we stopped and could see the broad standard to the flower and the absence of stipules at the leaf bases. The leaves were stiff and pungent pointed.

Our final stop for afternoon tea coincided with shrubs of the Violet Daisy-bush (Olearia iodochroa) with its tiny shiny leaves. The daisy flowers were pale purple to white with purple centres.

The weather had been good and it was a very enjoyable day. The Bairnsdale Club were thanked for their hospitality and friendship.

* In reply to a request about the name of the Hovea, J.H. Ross, Manager, National Herbarium, states in a letter that "Hovea longifolia occurs only in New South Wales but the name has been widely misapplied in the past to plants from Queensland to Tasmania. The Mt. Elizabeth Hovea is something of a puzzle as it appears to be slightly anomalous. For the present it is best included within Hovea purpurea".

Don Thompson

SALE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB 1964 - 1989

On 4th August, 1989, the Sale Field Naturalist Club celebrated its 25th Annual General Meeting. After the reading of the minutes, the appointment of the office bearers and the general meeting, each member present provided a "show and tell" item. Members had gone to a great deal of effort. There was a display board showing some types of eucalypt fruits with their accompanying leaves and some buds. One member gave a short talk on the history etc of fungi; others brought specimens to discuss.

An example of Box Mistletoe provided much discussion on types of mistletoe and other comments. Sightings of birds were reported and a fantail's nest which had been built on a suspended chain was examined. Other displays were Shield Shrimp which arrived in a fish bowl, a fossilized freshwater mussel from inland Australia and beautiful growing specimens of Nodding Greenhoods from a farm. A recording of bird calls, including the Catbird, created much interest.

To complete this section of the evening, Mr Don Macreadie researched the office bearers over the years with comments on their special efforts. Finally Mr Peter Turner, one of the several people responsible for the first meeting of the club and also the first president, related some of the accomplishments during the early years of the club and also tales of excursions and endeavours. Peter's talk was interspersed with humour.

During the supper and friendly talk that followed, a birthday cake was consumed. Sale Field Naturalist Club is to be congratulated on a very successful evening.

Mrs Betty Jarvis continues as president, with Mr Stuart Harris as secretary, Don Macreadie as assistant secretary and Mrs Ros Hahn continues as treasurer.

Bon Thompson

A VISIT TO EAST GIPPSLAND

Jack and I camped out near Waratah Flat on Tuesday night after first driving in to Lower Rodger River near Jackson's Crossing. An adult Night Heron flying in full sun, an Australian Hobby (Little Falcon) and a pair of Satin Flycatchers were best at the latter place; Rose Robins, Rufous Fantails and Golden Bronze Cuckoos at the former.

Tree Martins, up to eight at a time, came down to ground almost within my reach (some). Whether ingesting sand, ants or charcoal (those on old embers), or all three I could not tell. They are so tiny when close up.

The dawn chorus was magnificant; Crescent Honeyeaters perhaps loudest of all.

Letter from Joy Johnstone to Jean Galbraith

LATROBE WILDLIFE RESERVE

IN LATROBE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS PLUS DETACHED RIVER REDGUM REMNANTS NEARBY

Ranger: George Paris phone 03 4792871

Open to the public: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm

Attempt to re-establish original woodland and wetland. Started 20 years ago planting indigenous plants (shrubs and trees).
Propagate Australian natives for sale to public. Also propagating rare plants (including orchids) for return to original habitats.

Bird life is prolific - over 200 species sighted, some rare.

Visiting parties welcome and get guided tours of area - 30 hectares plus Red Gum area.

Reserve normally closed on Saturdays but by arrangement groups can be accommodated.
At the main reserve there are minimal facilities for picnicing and only one portable type toilet.
However at the Red Gum remnant area the minicipal council has developed the Bundoora Recreation Park with electric barbeques, playground equipment, toilets, an historical museum and an extensive scenic drive which goes to high points overlooking Darebin Creek with great views of the northern suburbs.

Ron Court

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB CAMPOUT

JANUARY 26 - 29, 1990

This will be held at the Traralgon High School camp at Licola in a beautiful bushland setting.

Accommodation is bunk-style. Take your own pillows, sleeping bags or sheets and blankets.

There is an excellent kitchen but all food must be taken.

Activities include visiting the High Plains, birdwatching, botanising and sharing the knowledge of those Club members who have visited this area for many years.

Bairnsdale Field Naturalist Club have indicated that they have eight members who will be attending the camp.

Cost is $7 per night. Children $3.50

Please contact the Secretary if you have not already registered your interest in attending.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB.	HON. SECRETARY	MEETING
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	7.30pm on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31st. Payable to Hon. Treasurer — Mrs.A.Stewart, P.O.Box 169, Newborough 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs. Pam Petschack
8 Church St
Trafalgar 3824

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COMING EVENTS

LATROBE VALLEY FNC Inc

Meeting:	Friday, February 23 at 7.30 pm
Speaker:	Norm Williams on "Photography for Field Naturalists"
Excursion:	Saturday, February 24 to Loch Sport with the local club. Meet at 10.30 am at Dolomite Picnic Park. This is 7-8 km past Loch Sport at the beginning of the National Park and is on the right hand side next to the ranger's office. Holly Wright from Loch Sport FNC will meet us and show us several interesting areas. Bring usual food and drink.
Bird Group:	
Meeting:	Monday, March 5.
Meeting place:	10 am at Martin Walker's Reserve, Yinnar South for visit to Mr Tony Manning's property.

Warragul FNC — Contact the Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

March 17 N.B.A SATURDAY -	Yinnar South Country Fair. We will again assist CFL and the fair committee.
March 18	Remove hard rubbish from "workshop" and other areas along the creek. Meet at the end of Tebb Terrace.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building, 37 Elgin Street, Morwell.

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CRUISE ON THE GIPPSLAND LAKES AND VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS, OCTOBER 28, 1989

After a wild, wet and windy Friday, Saturday turned out to be calm, and about thirty of us boarded the launch at Paynesville for our tour of the Gippsland Lakes.

Our Captain, Mike Sutton, gave us a running commentary as we moved along towards Duck Arm.

Over the last hundred years, clearing has done away with the paper bark and red gums that grew along the foreshore. Colonization and farming has resulted in chemical sprays and fertilizers polluting the lake waters and algae is now gaining a hold. Salinity is killing off the cane grass (Fragmites) which once grew profusely at the lake's edge. The capacity of the lake is about half of what it used to be and it is now never completely flushed out.

As we moved further along the lake, many species of birds were identified. These included two pairs of chestnut teal ducks, pied cormorants, a whistling kite, crested terns, plovers on the grasslands to our left, and a white cockatoo.

Approaching Sperm Whale Head, we saw silver gulls, a Pacific gull, little black cormorants, a Caspian tern and about twenty crested terns at the Spit, as well as a few little terns, with one or two flying overhead.

THE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

On land again, we carried our lunches and gear to tables, dotted over the picnic area. The resident kangaroos were not slow in hopping over and waiting expectantly for hand-outs.

During our walk after lunch, we saw, or heard, the calls of a variety of land birds. These included a shining bronze cuckoo, rufus whistler, crimson rosella, blackbird, masked plover, grey currawong, blue wren, wood swallow, grey shrike thrush and starlings.

The vegetation included coastal tea tree and manna gums (Eucalyptus viminalis).

Shortly after boarding the launch again, we witnessed the spectacle of a cormorant surfacing with a large eel in its beak. As we watched, both creatures disappeared under the water again and we did not learn which won the battle.

Upon landing at Rotamah Island, we spotted emus, hog deer, and a fox. Birds sighted included a rainbow lorikeet, Eastern rosella, Australian tree martin, fantail cuckoo, a brown thornbill and silver eyes.

While walking back towards the bird hide we noticed some Tiger (Diuris sulphurea) and Leopard (D. maculata) bush orchids by the side of the track.

Some more black swans were sighted before we reached the hide, and from it some of us saw noisy miners, six yellow tailed black cockatoos, a whip bird, yellow robin and silver eyes.

On returning to the launch, our Captain took us to see the canal development. There is an enormous amount of development along the foreshore. Motel and unit buildings are appearing in all available spaces and luxury launches and cruisers are berthed below them.

cont.p.2.....

CRUISE ON THE GIPPSLAND LAKES AND VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS, OCTOBER 28, 1989 cont...

On berthing again at Paynesville, at about 3.30 pm, we thanked our friendly Captain, and departed for home after spending some delightful hours cruising on the Gippsland Lakes and walking in its National Parks, observing the many and varied forms of wildlife.

Doreen Chipman

NATIVE SNAIL OR SLUG

During our fungi foray at Darlimurla in May, I turned over a white toadstool and found a native snail busily consuming the gills. The animal was dark grey to black, its rudimentary shell partly covered by its mantle. Looking it up in Dr. Smith's Field Guide we decided that its name was Helicarion niger.

It was a dainty little snail, the small flat shell reduced to the size of one's little finger nail and apparently of ornamental value only. It is considered to be on the evolutionary road to be becoming a slug. The shell was dark and glossy with a small zone of orange colour. There are six species of Helicarion (Helicoid = spirally coiled) in the south-eastern corner of Australia but the large family extends through Asia to Africa. It went with me to the meeting of Sale F.N.C and evoked much interest. I thoroughly approved the ruling of the Sale Club that each member present speak on an item of natural history observed during the month. Only a few words were spoken by each one but many observations were of great interest to all who heard them. Perhaps our larger membership could write theirs down for the Newsletter??

Ellen Lyndon

YELLOW ROBIN AND ANTS

For the last two or three years during the winter months we have had the pleasure of one or two yellow robins about the garden. When I split wood for the fire at the woodheap our robin is usually there to pick up any offerings such as grubs, termites etc.

One day last week a particular piece of wood revealed both termites and ants when split. The robin immediately landed on the wood and, as I watched, he ignored the termites (his favourites) and picked up an ant and proceeded to hold the ant under each fluttering wing in turn, then swallowed the ant.

This act was repeated many times with a fresh ant over a period of some twenty minutes. The ants were like a sugar ant; black, docile and slow moving and seemed to have no "ant" smell.

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YELLOW ROBIN AND ANTS cont.....

Several days later another piece of the wood revealed the same mixture of termites and black sugar ants. As I watched, expecting the same performance, our yellow robin totally ignored the ants and quickly gathered all available termites. Perhaps the "anting" procedure is only a rare event.

Today while pruning an apple tree in the garden our robin was present watching for any morsel I might disturb. While gathering up the prunings I saw robin pick up a lone bull-ant which was rapped against a limb repeatedly for about two minutes and swallowed while still struggling. I wondered how it would feel to be stung from the "inside" but robin was quite unperturbed.

O. Thompson

THE LITTLE DESERT

On Monday, October 2, 1989, a party of Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists joined a group of Victorian Field Naturalists, at their invitation, to visit the Little Desert, near Nhill, Victoria.

The Latrobe Valley party joined the Melbourne people after an early morning train trip, then both parties started out in a very comfortable coach for the Little Desert Lodge. Our driver, Frank, was very amiable and did his best to make the journey pleasant. We had each packed a picnic lunch and this we all ate, in a bitterly cold wind, beside Lake Wendouree at Ballarat. Despite the cold the birdos among us were keen to practice their craft. We then pressed on to our destination where we found comfortable accommodation and a good meal awaiting us.

The following day, after a substantial breakfast, it was all aboard the bus to explore the Glenlea Reserve, led by a local guide. The Glenlea Reserve was once part of Glenlea Station and is situated half way between Nhill and Jeparit. The abundance and variety of wildflowers in this reserve delighted us all.

We were fortunate, on our first outing, in having Dr.Willis with us. He had performed the opening of the Little Desert Lodge Wildflower Show and had stayed on at the Lodge for a few days. His expertise and obvious pleasure as each specimen was found made this a memorable day for us. A disused Mallee Fowl nest was found after lunch, adding to our pleasure. Other interesting sightings on this day were the memorial to Alfred Herman Traeger, inventor of the pedal wireless, and the marker of the old Adelaide to Castlemaine gold escort route.

The Little Desert itself was our destination on our second day. This was undertaken in a fleet of three four-wheel drive vehicles, whose drivers were knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the Little Desert. As on the previous day the flowers were abundant and included a large number of species. We travelled through the desert, at times on foot, at times in

cont.p.4.....

THE LITTLE DESERT cont....

the vehicles. Looking out across the landscape it appeared to be a sea of grey-green growing trees, but when on foot one realised that the understory to the trees contained a wealth of flowering subjects.

A tasty lunch had been provided by the Lodge, and this together with billy tea was served by our drivers. We pressed on after lunch, enjoying the desert and its flowers and birds. The photographers among us were kept busy with lenses and filters and such paraphernalia. A short walk took us up to a viewing point from where we saw The Crater and Mount Turner. Here we found a quondong tree. A cup of billy tea was enjoyed and then we headed for home where an ample dinner had been prepared for us.

Our third day in the vicinity of the Little Desert was spent exploring the Mount Arapiles area. Here the flowers were exceptional in their abundance and beauty. The number of species was not as large as in the areas mentioned above but there were large areas golden with acacias, prostantheras covered in masses of mauve blooms and goodenias in green and red. The day was wet, but we climbed to the lookout on Mount Arapiles and as luck would have it, the low cloud lifted long enough for us to enjoy the view. We were given the option of walking or riding on the bus for part of the morning. Many of us chose the walk option, despite the rain, admiring the abundance of flowers. Lunch was eaten at Mount Arapiles Park, after which we turned towards home as we had been promised the opportunity to see the Mallee Fowl being fed.

The Mallee Fowl is the special interest of "Wimpie", our host at the Lodge. A very large enclosure has been built so that young birds can be reared, safe from cats, foxes and birds of prey. The birds are kept under permit and are returned to the wild when mature enough. The release of the birds into the wild, in the Little Desert area has not been very successful. Radio transmitters were attached to each bird released in the last batch, and all birds were known to have been killed by predators. A wild Mallee Fowl visits the enclosure regularly and has become tame enough to be hand fed. The wild bird allowed us to approach quite close so that we obtained a very good view of it.

A list of plant species, seen in each of the areas discussed above follows.

Florence Blucher

LITTLE DESERT, VICTORIA, OCTOBER 2-6, 1989

PLANT LIST

Tuesday 3rd GLENELG RESERVE

Olearia pimeleoides
(on the way to the reserve)
Stackhousia monogyna
Swainsonia procumbens
Atriplex spinebracteum
semibaccata
Dodonea viscosa Ssp. spathulata
Clematis microphylla
Ptilotus spathulatus
Marsilea drummondii
Eutaxia microphylla

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LITTLE DESERT, VICTORIA, OCTOBER 2-6,1989

PLANT LIST cont.....

Rumex dumosus
Minuria leptophylla
Tulostoma (Puff ball)
Daviesia genistifolia
Sedge?
Plantago varia
Medicago polymorpha
Dichopogon strictus
Thelymitra nuda
Astroloma conostephioides
Glossodia major
Acianthus exsertus
Correa reflexa
Dampiera rosmarinifolia
Caladenia dilatata
Acacia glandulicarpa
Lasiopetalum baueri
Pultenaea laxiflora
Craspedia glauca
Goodenia pinnatifida
Arthropodium minus
Helipterum corymbiflorum
Trifolium arvense
" tomentosum
Ranunculus sessiliflorus
Hypoxis glabella
Hibbertia virgata
Calytrix tetragona
Loudonia behrii now Glischrocaryon behrii
Dianella revoluta
Hakea muelleriana
Baeckea behrii
Chamaescilla corymbosa
Micromyrtus ciliata
Veronica calycina
Thomasia petalocalyx

Wednesday 4th LITTLE DESERT

Zieria veronicea
Calytrix alpestris
Brachyloma daphnoides
Phebalium stenophyllum
Isopogon ceratophyllus
Boronia caerulescens
Epacris impressa
Calectasia intermedia (F.J.C. Rogers) cyanea (J.Galbraith)
Prostanthera aspalathoides
Drosera glanduligera (not in flower)
Chamaescilla corymbosa
Acacia spinescens
Dillwynia glaberrima
Caladenia carnea
Lomandra speci
Goodenia geniculata
Grevillea glabella
Santalum murrayanum
Tetratheca ciliata
Muehlenbeckia cunninghamii
Hibbertia prostrata (F.J.C. Rogers) fasciculata(J. Galbraith)
Helichrysum baxteri
Loudonia behrii (see previously)
Leucopogon costatus
Dampiera lanceolata
Glossodia major (blue, white)
Euphrasia collina
Pimelea stricta
Pterostylis plumosa (F.J.C. Rogers) barbata (J.Galbraith)
Caladenia filamentosa
Grevillea aquifolium
Casuarina specie?
Thelymitra nuda
" antennifera
Pterostylis longifolia
Xanthorrhoea australis
Baeckea ericaea
Spyridium vexilliferum
River Red Gum

Thursday 5th MOUNT ARAPILES

Diuris maculata
Goodenia speci
Calytrix alpestris
Prostanthera speci
Eriostemon speci
Arthropodium minus

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TRUST'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Victorian Conservation Trust's annual report for 1989 records a steady increase of landowners entering into conservation covenants to permanently protect private land with conservation values.

Over 3,000 hectares of land with diverse flora and fauna values have now been covenanted in Victoria and regional officers are now being established throughout country areas.

The Trust has also commenced a Supporters Group for people interested in its work and the covenanting programme in particular.

Copies of the annual report and Supporter Group leaflets are available free of charge on request from the Trust Office (tel.(03) 412 4661; 412 4701) or write to the Victorian Conservation Trust, 250 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, 3002.

NEWS ITEM

Jane Purbrick, our sailing-minded President, had a triumphant trip home from the Paper Tiger Catamaran National Titles held over the New Year on Lake Bonney (near Renmark) in South Australia.

She is now the National Title holder in the Women's Division.

This season Jane is a crew-member on a two-person Hydra catamaran. She enjoys the hard work and energy required in her sport, and we all wish her continuing success.

Congratulations Jane.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER

We followed another track and suddenly I saw this lovely Greenhood about 8 inches tall. I thought at first it must be Pterostylis alata as it was striped. I said "OH look Fran, what Greenhood is that?". She looked with the glass and said, "Oh May, it is a terribly rare one. It's P.furcota." "Very rare," she said, "only one has ever been found in Victoria before." Peter Branwhite thought he found one and went back to photograph it and a porcupine had eaten it and was sitting there having scratched a big hole just where the orchid was. That was in the Barrandooders.

Then yesterday when I took her little Hibbertia down, Francis told me in even more excitement when Peter had taken her and Doug to Chiltern Forest and shoved them both species of Flying Duck orchids, it was still early so Doug drove her and Peter out to Kerferd and I told you on the phone what he said.Fran said he encircled it with his hands and told it how rare, in fact new and undescribed it was. We will not be able to get it recognised or named for years because he told us you have to send three specimens to Kew Gardens for official recognition.

It would be hard to find three more in that bush and we don't want them picked if we did find more. We'd best watch and wait to see if it sets seed and more come up another year.

Peter grows lots of orchids, thousands.He rescues them from places where new roads are being made like the big new Hume Highway being duplicated now.

Part of a letter from
May Galbraith.

ANNUAL DUCK COUNT

The Department of Conservation,Forests and Lands have asked us to assist with a duck count in several local areas prior to the duck season.

This will be done on Sunday,March 18.

Members are asked to meet at the Moe Sewerage Farm at 10 am.

Enquiries to June Lubcke,phone 34 2203.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC Inc. 17/1/90

Five members present. Four apologies.

Finance:

Investment account	$2005.03
Conservation account	700.00
General account	616.52

Treasurer to transfer $550 from Conservation to General.

Correspondence: (matters arising)

Andy Blackburn. Bon Thompson has forwarded plant list for Mount Baw Baw for SGAP.

Alpine National Park Management Plans. Work being done on Wonnangatta-Moroka Park as this is in our area.

Latrobe Valley Wastewater Review. Information paper No.1. Submission requested. Pass to J.Blucher.

Board of Works information on waterways and parks. Write to thank for information.

General business: (of interest)

1. A Melbourne area SGAP requested plant lists for specific area beyond Licola through CFL.B.Thompson has supplied a comprehensive list to be taken to Licola.

2. Request from ACF volunteer for information on a threatened grass species. Previous research sent.

Mirboo North-Thorpdale roadworks. Club contacted by Narracan Shire.B.and O.Thompson and G.and D. Trainor involved in inspection of plans and area to advise on re-growth over fern gullies and batters.

Conservation Report:

Received summary of community options on Gippsland Lakes Management.

Received MMBW newsletter on their parks around Melbourne.

Received notice of further meetings on the Greenhouse effect to be attended.

Have been involved with CFL in applying for grant from "Save the Bush" grants scheme 1989-90 to remove pine trees from Clarke's Road and Calligne South Roadunder heading "Latrobe Valley Roadside Conservation" to the extent of $5000.

Forwarded a submission and a second submission by J.Blucher on Latrobe Valley Industry Future Management Options.

Preparing submissions on a) Moondarra State Park and Tyers Park proposed management plans.
b) Wonnangatta-Moroka Unit-Alpine National Park proposed management plan.

Received from Dr.Harris Schaap,Manager for Environmental Planning,SECV, in response to our submission on Greenhouse Discussion paper:
1.50 page summary of the 49 submissions received.
2.Reports 4 and 5 of SECV and DITR Demand Management Development Project.

Supper roster: Friday,Feb.23- Ruth Place and Helena Lynn.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB.	HON. SECRETARY	MEETING
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	7.30pm on 4th Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cuming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31st. Payable to Hon. Treasurer — Mrs.A.Stewart, P.O.Box 169, Newborough 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

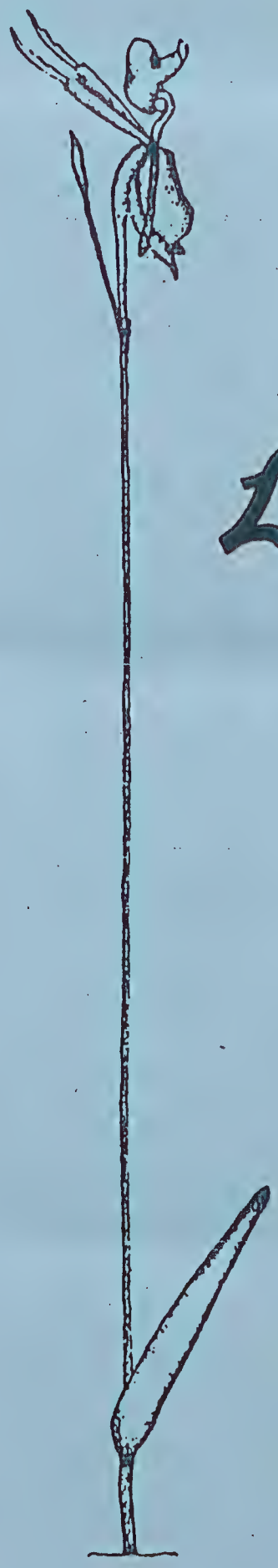
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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, March 23, 1990 at 7.30pm.
Speaker:	Annual General Meeting. Stephen Guest, Manager of Public Affairs at Victorian Association of Forest Industry on "Forestry and Conservation".
Excursion:	Saturday, March 24. Excursion to Erica area with Stephen Guest to look at logging coupes, past and present. Meet at Erica Football Ground at 10am.
Business meeting:	Wednesday, March 21 at 7.30pm at the YMCA in Morwell. All interested members welcome.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, April 2.
Meeting place:	10am at "Willow Park", north side of Latrobe Bridge at Rosedale for excursion arranged by Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board.

Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

April 15	Tree planting (start of the great revegetation), beginning at the lodge/ workshop area. Meet at the end of Tebb Terrace at 1.30pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm. Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building, 37 Elgin St., Morwell.

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FLOWERS OF JANUARY CAMP 1990

The season was very dry in the high country and many of the open bog areas were quite dry with none of the special little plants we look forward to with anticipation. However some of the bogs, especially sheltered by nearby trees, contained their little gems. With many of the lovely trigger plants, the flowers had died before they came into bloom.

On the trip to Mount Skene we found a sun-orchid with an unusual blue extension in between the column brushes. We hoped it was a special plant but finally decided it was an aberration of the Tall Sun-orchid. We found both the Common Bird-orchid and the Green Bird-orchid in bloom. The Pale Vanilla Lily produced many delicate flowers at most stopping places. The tiny Trailing Pratia displayed its blue flowers on slender stalks. The Tasman Flax-lily was in flower but we were too early for its bright deep blue berries. The Willow-herbs created interest with their four pink petals and the long slender ovary which forms the seed capsule that splits from the bottom to expose the seeds with plumes of long silky hairs in the Robust and Gunn's Willow-herbs which were both present at the Mount Useful turn-off. The Royal Grevillea was mostly in bud. The Hairy Carraways in seed attracted attention because of the spreading rays at right angles to the main stalk. The leaves of these plants were at the base of the stalk and were finely divided into a feathery appearance. The Slender Mint was flowering. The Turquoise Berry with its leaves in one plane on the branch and its white starry flowers drooping beneath the leaves was also identified.

At Mount Skene, where there is a small plain, the Golden Everlastings were in full bloom with many white Ox-eye Daisies. In the moister areas the Alpine and Mauve, or Sutton's, Leek-orchids flowered and the Hovea, Star-bushes and Alpine Grevillea, though not in flower, provided much of the shrubbery. On the return trip we stopped to look at the Ash-mallee, Eucalyptus kybeanensis, which is rather selective of where it grows.

On Sunday we went up to Mount Tamboritha saddle and further. At the saddle Beatrice found two Cinnamon Bells flowering inside a living hollow tree trunk. Ruth Clark found the first Elbow Orchid and then others were found. The Delicate Bush-pea trailed amongst the grass while the Chamomile Sunray flowered everywhere. The Dwarf Persoonia was in full flower with its solitary yellow grevillea-like flowers. We then visited the airfield and found some bog areas with again the leek-orchids, the male and female flowers of the Alpine Celery, the low, pale blue Sky Lilies, the white Purslane, the lovely low clusters of the Alpine Parsnip, the Purple Violet, the white to mauve flowers of the Alpine Fan-flowers, three different species of buttercups, a Gentian, the Wheel Heath with its red berries and the lovely deep coloured Royal Bluebells.

At Bryce's Gorge Lookout, a car park has been constructed with a low fence to restrict the cars and picnic tables and benches have also been constructed. Here the pink Small Crowea and the purple Austral Bugle were blooming with the Billy Buttons.

cont.p.2.....

FLOWERS OF JANUARY CAMP 1990 cont.....

On the walk to Guy's Hut a Swan Greenhood was found and at the hut large shrubs of the Tall Riceflower were in full glory with their big flowers and red-tinted bracts. The Golden Weatherglass grew along the creek bank near the hut. James Turner showed us the Anchor Plant which is a very spiny plant with inconspicuous leaves. The spines are about half an inch long, opposite and at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the branch. Anchor Plants are rather rare. James also showed us how the Spinning Gum, Eucalyptus perriniana, gets its name. The pairs of juvenile leaves meet completely around the branch and as they dry they separate from the branch and can then spin around in the wind.

These are but a few of approximately 111 flowers identified for the weekend.

Bon Thompson

L.V.F.N.C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989 - 1990

Once again, we are coming to the close of a most successful year.

We have had meetings, speakers and excursions covering a wide range of subjects and interests and I trust that everyone's pet subject has been covered at some stage. Speakers have included such notable people as Jane Calder on National Parks, our own members such as Barry Traill on Endangered Species and members of other local Field Naturalist Clubs such as Joan Vincent on Birds.

Notable excursions have been a bus trip to the Zoo, a boat cruise on the Gippsland Lakes and a visit to the rock pools at Bunurong as well as a look at Tyers Valley from a geological viewpoint.

We are very fortunate that we can continue to attract speakers and leaders of such high calibre and also that we have many very talented and knowledgeable people both within our own Club and other local Clubs.

My personal thanks to all our own members who have contributed to our program over the last twelve months.

I also wish to thank all of our hard-working Committee, all the people involved in producing our very well respected magazine, those who look after our supper each month, the people who organise our Bird Group excursions and all those who help out in so many ways.

In particular, there are four people who we must replace at the A.G.M. (or at least this year) to whom I wish to say a special thank you.

Firstly, our very efficient and hard-working Secretary of the last two years, Gwyn Trainor - a very big thank you. She has been a tower of strength, a pleasure to work with and has simply done a wonderful job.

Secondly, our Publicity Officer for at least the last four years (perhaps more?), John Mewett.His reports have appeared every month in the local media, always bright and interesting and I'm sure they have been a big factor in attracting many

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L.V.F.N.C. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1989 - 1990 cont....

new members to our Club.We wish John all the best in his new venture.

Thirdly, Pam Petschack, who has done a wonderful job of editing our magazine over the last two years. Although Pam's resignation does not take effect until August and we will not actually be electing her replacement at the A.G.M., we need to find someone now so Pam can start teaching them the job.

The fourth person is our Treasurer who has done a stirling job for a number of years, Ann Stewart. We would be lost without her expert bookkeeping as well as her clear and concise reports each month and annual report each year. Thank you Ann for a job well done.

In addition, I wish to thank Wendy Savage, our Assistant Secretary, who has been a big help both to Gwyn and me during Gwyn's absences on various occasions.

Also I must make mention of our very hard-working Conservation Co-ordinator, Bon Thompson, and Assistant Conservation Co-ordinator, Jim Blucher, whose jobs just never seem to end. Thank you very much to you both.

And now we have an exciting program to look forward to for 1990. Please give careful consideration to all the positions becoming vacant and, if you would like to nominate but are not quite sure what is involved, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish the Club all the best for 1990 and am confident that we will go from strength to strength.

Jane Purbrick,
President.

BIRD-RECORDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Bird observers were again well catered for during the year with nine special Bird-observing excursions as well as normal Club excursions.

A good list was recorded on the excursion to Sale Common led by Mrs Joan Vincent in April. Also 15 members of our Club who joined the F.N.C.V. tour to the Little Desert in October compiled a sizeable list of birds sighted there.

Members of the Club who attended the special Bird-observing excursions have decided to take part in the R.A.O.U. Australian Bird Count. This is a national project established as a follow-up to the Atlas project, and aims to investigate seasonal and year to year changes in the abundance of land birds in a broad range of habitats throughout Australia.

Our group has chosen Wirilda to be its Study Site and has already made two bird-counting survey visits to the area.

On February 18, 1990, members again assisted in the annual Waterfowl Survey on behalf of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

June Lubcke.

REPORT ON CRINNIGAN ROAD RESERVE

Just before my report last year, we received a grant of $24,000 for improvements to our reserve.

We had a meeting with the Morwell Shire Council representatives and decided on the priorities in the works that were required.

The main areas of work were to take down the old eastern boundary fence and clear the undergrowth away from the roadside verges. Put pipes underground to drain the overflow from the dam. Refence a portion of the eastern boundary, refence the car park and resurface with more metal.

A new walking track from the car park down to a bridge across the west end of the dam has made the access to the reserve much easier.

On Environment Day last year, a tree planting scheme was sponsored by the Morwell Shire and A.P.M. The local school children co-operated in planting over 600 trees but the disappointing result is that they didn't follow up the necessary aftercare, with the result that only about half of them have survived.

Eric T.C.Lubcke.

...

LAND PROTECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

During the previous twelve months I was able to attend all six meetings of the LPRAC which are normally held every two months.

This year a new committee was formed with seven elected land holders, two from community groups and two from Government organisations, namely Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board. Meetings are also attended by CFL staff and other observers such as SECV and APM.

The meetings usually run for about five hours and covered many Land Protection problems, etc. Field excursions were held during the year. The first to Blue Rock Dam to discuss the grazing rights of the land surrounding the dam. This land will be divided into six lots for lease with one area to be retained as forest with some plantings added. During July,at the invitation of the APM, the committee members were taken on an inspection tour of the Maryvale Paper Mill, and then on to Eucalypt growing trials at Flynn, a brief look at Radiata Pine harvesting and then back to Morwell where a tour of the pine log saw mill was conducted.

Other activities, apart from meetings, were a day at Howitt and Snowy Plains with relation to alpine grazing. Another day was at Sale to attend a salinity seminar where all those present were taken for a 30 minute light-plane flight to view the salinity problems from the air.

O. Thompson.

LATROBE VALLEY LANDSCAPE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Landscape projects on Moe, Morwell and Traralgon are updated on a regular basis.

I attended a meeting near the commencement of Morwell By-pass to discuss the Wetland area. After inspection with RCA (now Vic. Roads) and Morwell Water Board the meeting resolved that restoration of the area between the two carriage-ways of the By-pass was not feasible. RCA agreed to mass tree planting of the area.

A sub-committee was formed for World Environment Day. DCFL offered 5,000 additional trees bringing the total to 15,000 plus. Schools were contacted.

Environment was a great success and the people involved wish to continue it in 1990 and beyond. A grant of $16,600 from Tree Victoria program was received. It was decided to hold E. Day again in 1990. Sub-committee has it in hand.

Discussion on Botanic Gardens in the Latrobe Valley area. Suggestions are welcomed from any source. Some areas were recommended and the Committee will follow up.

Signposting for town entrances. Posters of regional landscaping (rural and town scape) discussed. Sub-committee formed.

Attended a bus tour to Sale in December. Visited City planting and landscaping prior to meeting.

Report by Mr.David Benson on Wirilda Environment Park. Outlines of location of natural features, ownership and membership given and description of its opportunities.

Finally reports received from various shires on updates of landscaping to date. Projects progressing satisfactorily.

No meeting held in January and February 1990.

J.Wall

Club Representative.

WIRILDA PROJECT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

During the past twelve months the Wirilda Project Association received a grant from the Victorian Government for the purpose of formulating an overall management plan for the future of Wirilda Environment Park. To draw up these plans, a consultant, Mr.D. Benson, has been engaged and considerable progress has been achieved to this end.

The public were invited to a special meeting in October to publicise the interim plans and stimulate interest in Wirilda. About 30 people attended.

Maintenance on the five houses is a costly problem, but standards must be maintained to ensure the income from rent.

A new three year lease, with the option of a further three years, has been negotiated with Mr.Tanner for the farm area.

One of the Wirilda residents, Mr Bill Drowley, has been appointed as the new part-time ranger and his enthusiastic

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WIRILDA PROJECT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90 cont.....

efforts are apparent in the picnic area and walking track. Some extra work has been carried out by the Waverley Bush Walking Club. The Board greatly appreci tes this voluntary assistance.

O.Thompson.

REHABILITATION CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Annual report to LVFNC Inc. for year 1989

Morwell Eastern Overburden Dump: as usual the works dumping program has been controlled by the wet weather.

Morwell Western Overburden Dump: MMBW silt traps and wet lands inspected and drawings of proposed local works prepared, including tree planting schedules.

Westbrook Gully: pasture establishment excellent and sheep now grazing on site.

Loy Yang: overheight material has been used for local civil works instead of creating another dump.

Yallourn North Extended Open Cut: this is an area to be addressed by the group in the future as it still has winnable reserves of good coal.

Yallourn East Field: pines have been harvested, grass filter system operating, dumping continuing.

Saviges Track: as the initial pasture was patchy, more work has been done.

Trial plots: the Department of Agriculture is putting in a lot of work both on the dumps and on the trial plots at its research establishment at Ellinbank.

"Trees, Environment and Fire Protection": initial drafts were reviewed and final "guideline" has been published by the SEC Rural Services, Engineering Services Department.

F.J.Blucher

Delegate.

1990 LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

ANNUAL CAR STICKER REPORT

Opening balance 1/3/1989	$405.66
Car stickers sold to members (4 at $1.50)	6.00
Interest to 1/6/1989	15.16
	426.82
Transferred to General Account	400.00
Balance in bank 19/2/1990	26.82

Val Plant

Hon. Car Sticker Sec.

A VISIT TO KOSCIUSKO

Flowers were late on Kosciusko this season. Swamp heath and lots of yellow bossiaea but only a few real alpines just before Christmas.I'd intended going to Charlotte Pass again about mid-January, but was told the flowers were then best around Saw Pit Creek, so stayed down there.Best for me was two stems of cinnamon bells which I can't remember ever having seen before in bloom; only brown stems. Lots of bright trigger plants and blue bells, large mauve brachycomes and others, mostly yellow.

Birds few except in certain areas. Woodswallows, restless flycatchers (nesting), fuscous honeyeaters and sacred kingfisher I saw only at Waste Point - also eastern rosellas.

Higher up, in Guthega - Island Bend Dams area, olive whistlers were best. Not many flame robins, but well dispersed for breeding I suppose.

Occasional patches of pink and blue lupins and one of Californian poppies were seen that day.

Another drive through Thredbo and over to Tom Groggin was good. Pilot birds were near the river below Thredbo (Jindabyne side) and one rufous fantail the best at Leather Barrel rest area towards Tom Groggin. Besides the fantail, this spot had Prostanthera lasianthos with the largest and most flowers I can remember.

A once farmed area along Murray River at Tom Groggin is now mostly blackberries and a yellow flower which at first glance resembles ragwort but which I feel must be some kind of Hypericum? Small leaves, tall stems and yellow flowers with many stamens - very like those of garden St. John's Wort. We first saw it near Burrinjuck Dam. Yellow Lotus major and L. australis of pale pink were seen that day too one in moist situations, other in dry ones.

Extract of a letter from Joy Johnstone
to Jean Galbraith.

LYREBIRDS AND KOOKABURRAS

We were walking on Mount Erica recently and heard several lyrebirds as well as seeing one perched in a tree.

At one stage , a kookaburra gave his familiar laugh nearby, and to our amusement this was immediately followed by a lyrebird's imitation of it.

The first few bars were an extremely good effort and then it seemed to fade like an old wind-up record player running down.

We listened intrigued as this was repeated over and over again; each call beginning well and then fading away .

Pam Petschack.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC Inc. ON 21/2/90

9 members present. 3 apologies.

Finance:

Cheque account	$1398.92
Investment account	2005.03
Conservation account	144.79

General Business (of interest):

1. Business meeting. Any new faces very welcome.
2. Magazine lending. D.Farrow to announce at each meeting.
3. LRC membership. Nominations close 2/3/90. Club to support J.Blucher.

Business arising from the previous minutes (of interest):

1. Program planning. H.Weatherhead unable to come. Jack and Nancy Brooks willing and able to show slides - fungi and Mount Worth.
June. D.Thomas related excursion, not APM.
August. A.Ewan and R.Court can now do whole evening. Don Thompson will have "key out" diagrams at excursion.

4. Licola Campout. Nine LVFN persons joined by five from Bairnsdale FNC.

5. Mirboo North-Thorpdale roadworks. Plant list and info. on local departments who could raise selected seedlings sent to Shire of Narracan.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Replied to National Trust re Register of Significant Trees in Victoria.

Forwarded register of interest to Latrobe Valley Wastewater Review Panel and commented on the Terms of Reference and Consultation Process.

Presented draft of submission on proposed management plan for Wonnangatta/Moroka Unit ofAlpine National Park.

LPRAC (report by O.Thompson). CFL at Maffra re Dawson Railway Reserve. Removing ballastfrom rail lines, pegs denoting various areas for protection. Casuarinas near West Sale Railway line to be protected. Wonnangatta area concern over wear and tear by 4-wheel drive vehicles etc.

Next meeting: Wednesday,March 21,1990 at 7.30 pm.
YMCA,Morwell.

Any interested members are welcome to attend.
Full copies of the minutes of the Business meeting are available for members from the Secretary.

Supper roster: Friday, March 23. Joan and Rowland Good.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Curming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, Bairnsdale.

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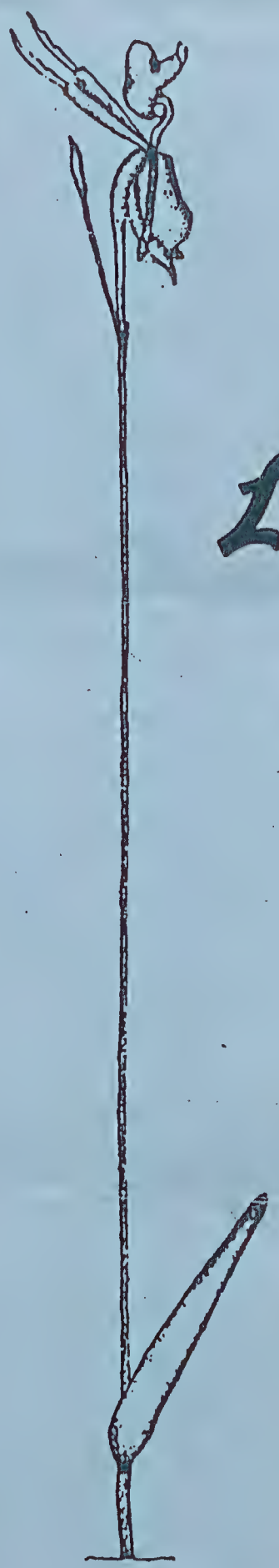
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APRIL 1990

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Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, April 27, 1990 at 7.30pm.
Speaker:	Arthur Thiess on "Mosses".
Excursion:	Saturday, April 28 to Glen Nayook. Meet at 10am near the school in Neerim South (not near the Hospital as on previous excursions).
Business meeting:	Wednesday, April 25 at 7.30pm at the YMCA in Morwell. All members welcome.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, May 7.
Meeting place:	10am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Yallourn North Road for excursion to Wirilda.

Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park.

May 20 Tree planting. Meet at the end of Tebb Terrace at 1.30pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park.

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm. Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building, 37 Elgin Street, Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

A NEW LOOK AT THE TARRA-BULGA NATIONAL PARK

Nine members of the club met at the Tarra Valley Picnic area at 10.30am on Saturday 25 November for our last excursion for the year. This general excursion was notable as our first since the expansion of the park which involved the integration of the former separate Tarra Valley and Bulga National Parks.

We began by meeting our guide for the day, Mr Tim Buttle, who has been a ranger at the pair of parks for some twelve years. Eschewing the familiar Cyathea Falls track, Tim first led us south along the road beside the Tarra River. We viewed a land slip known to have occurred ten years ago, and noted with interest the extent of new growth of tree-ferns and other plants in the subsequent period. Other points of interest along this road were the young, dense stands of Mountain Ash (Eucalyptus regnans) already reaching some fifty metres in height, and a variety of epiphytic ferns (such as filmy ferns) and ground ferns (including the fan fern).

From the Tarra Valley Road, we branched left onto an early settlers' track now servicing the purposes of park access and fire prevention. Our guide explained that this track continues through to the Bulga section of the park, although even our keenest walkers didn't proceed that far! Perhaps this reluctance is explained by the fact that in places the track was a writhing mass of leeches, many of which had to be assiduously fended off as we progressed! Another undesirable presence was the hard-to-control, prolific spreading tutsan weed. On the positive side, we observed good numbers of the Green Bird orchid, a profusion of the common violet, Viola hederacea, and at least two species of water-fern. On an historical note, we passed the site of one of the early settlers' farm houses. Some of our party continued on to higher, more open ground where Tim was able to indicate tracts of land of potential value for future addition to the park.

Upon retracing our steps, we lunched at the Tarra Valley picnic area, noting with pleasure the luxuriant, healthy state of the surrounding tree ferns following the good spring rains.

In the afternoon, we rejoined our guide at the starting point of a newly formed walking track which is being graded and surfaced to suit people confined to wheelchairs. This track leads off from the new Visitors' Information Centre at Balook. This centre is not yet open, and it is fair to say that its architecture inspired a variety of reactions from members! Nevertheless, we look forward to seeing it spacious display areas and theatrette in use. This new trail, which we walked, passes the site of an old saw mill and so gives access to an area dominated by relatively recent plant growth. Tim explained that a side track will later lead down to the well known suspension bridge which crosses the valley of Mack's Creek.

We bade farewell to Tim Buttle at this point, thanking him for offering us a somewhat different perspective on this small but vitally important national park.

Philip Rayment.

PARKS OF VICTORIA

On September 22, 1989, Jane Calder, naturalist, author and conservationist, was guest speaker at LVFNC.

Jane's special interests are plants and helping people to learn about the natural world. She had anticipated that her latest book, on Victoria's State and National Parks, would have been newly published and available to use as background for her talk. Unfortunately, the book's publication had been delayed but we were still able to benefit from Jane's work for the book through her slides and wide knowledge of the subject.

Victoria has an excellent collection of State and National Parks. There are 81 altogether, including Coastal and Historic Parks and Flora and Fauna Reserves.

The guidelines for declaring an area as a National Park have changed since the introduction of the category of State Park in the 1970s. Prior to that, many National Parks were declared simply because State Parks did not exist, even if the area was small and in nowhere near pristine condition, such as the Organ Pipes National Park on the outskirts of Melbourne.

In the 1970s, State Parks were introduced to cater for areas that have high conservation and recreation value, but whose size and conservation value are not sufficient to qualify for National Park status.

To be declared as a National Park today, an area must be large, have high conservation values and be in a relatively pristine condition.

Recent legislation provides for the same level of protection for conservation values in State and National Parks. Flora and Fauna Reserves, however, do not have the same level of protection, and it appears that a rare or endangered species of animal, especially if it is soft and cuddly, will qualify for protection with greater ease than a rare or endangered species of plant.

Despite Victoria's small size, it boasts an amazing diversity of environments which are well represented in its parks. Using her collection of magnificent slides, Jane took us on a whirlwind tour of 29 parks from the Big Desert in the Mallee to Croajingolong in East Gippsland .

We saw the Information Centre at Wyperfeld and heard how toilet rolls are used to demonstrate how much cellulose termites eat and so encourage campers to keep their fires small and leave plenty of dry and rotting wood for the termites which in turn become food for echidnas and birds.

Jane also told us of the invaluable work done by "Friends" groups in Wyperfeld and Brisbane Ranges. At Wyperfeld they have successfully attacked the invasive weed, horehound, for ten years, while at Brisbane Ranges they have helped to restore the historic Anglican Church.

If visiting the Lower Glenelg National Park in the south-west, Jane recommended going broke to take a trip up the Glenelg River on the "Lady Nelson" to watch the Nankeen Night Herons fishing along the edges of the river.

A special feature of the Werribee Gorge is the courting flight of the Peregrine Falcons between July and September,

cont.p.3.....

PARKS OF VICTORIA cont.....

while in the Farmyard Gully area of the Cathedral Ranges, lyrebirds can be heard that "moo, bark and bleat".

Each park has its own unique character, with some having great variety in their moods according to the weather. Jane gave us a special insight, through her own experience and the experiences of the many people she has spoken to, of the diversity and splendour of our parks.

Pam Petschack.

ZOOLOGICAL BUTTERFLY HOUSE

To those members who visited the Butterfly House at the Zoological and wondered about the Sunbird, will no doubt be interested in the following extract which is taken from:-

The Introduction of Orchids into the Butterfly House at Melbourne Zoo by Gerald McCraith of the Australian Orchid Foundation.

"The Butterfly House had a problem with the build-up of the spider population so a pair of Sunbirds were introduced to control this problem and have been very successful - they are currently building their strange shaped nest hanging from a palm leaf.

The hen bird was noticed about a metre from where we were standing stripping pieces off the dried sheaf that surrounds the hard cane Dendrobium bulb; flying back to the nest and using threads of spider web to bind the pieces into position. It was a most fascinating experience to watch this operation so closely and we were able to time her making ten trips to this Dendrobium in five minutes -- the male bird, in all his glory sat on a nearby branch, not offering to help, but probably supervising the work.

The weaving of the fibre from the Dendrobium with the spider's web was a work of art, done so expertly, leaving a lasting impression of the 'laws of nature'."

An account of the Sunbird's habits is given on page 515 of the "Readers Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds".

J. Wall.

A TRAVELLER'S TALE

On Barkly Tableland a spotted nightjar's calls woke us one night and I went out in moonlight to see it. At Marlgu in early am. 20 or so brolgas were dancing. These were new and delightful experiences.

We took our time down Tanami, spending five nights along it. Wolfe Creek meteorite crater is an immense hollow in a vast level plain. Good recent rains meant wildflowers and plenty of birds along much of the track. Pied, black, brown, singing, grey-headed and white-fronted honeyeaters were numerous.

From a letter by J.Johnstone to J. Galbraith.

AN ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK,1990

Last year I reported that we had completed almost all of the 250 metres of pathway for wheelchair use "before the track naturally levels out". Dear me! What looks almost level to a reasonably fit person must look a whole lot different to a person seated in a wheelchair because an apparently level track when checked with a gradient measurer so often turns out to require a lot of careful truing up before it is suitably graded for surfacing.

But in spite of the formidable task always, it seems, still ahead, it is a tribute to the spirit of the regular members of the team that there is no surrendering to any feelings of despair that might be felt at times, and as a reward we are now at the stage where it appears we are approaching a long run of really level going.

This is at a position needed in order to use the good Autumn weather to get as much of the 24 cubic metres of sand recently delivered, spread along the pathway - 30 cubic metres of the original 36 having been placed.

During the year, the Warragul Apex Club supplied and installed an important footbridge over the Moonlight Creek as part of our new pathway; apart from the wonderful effort involved, by funding the project from their own resources, they saved any need for an application for a special grant from the government in addition to the valuable assistance we have received on four previous occasions to make possible the continuation of our activities in full.

The Warragul Scouts have also made a welcome contribution to the project in transporting sand for a total of many kilometres on two occasions so far.

A notable event in the past year for which I reported preparations in a vital section of typically overgrown track was a "Walk, Talk and Gawk" visit by the Victorian National Parks Association , an event that was regarded as of special significance because of the knowledge, locality spread and experience of the participants who in the main, regularly go on such excursions in comparable parks and reserves.

The success of this occasion was demonstrated that they were so well impressed they requested we arrange a follow-up straight walk of somewhat greater length. This was arranged for March 4 this year. An ideal route finishingup along the 3.5 kilometres of the new Moonlight Valley Track which had been not much more than surveyed at that stage. Exactly two years later than we had done that very difficult task from previous experience being fully aware that the route went through Scrub Nettle growing through Bracken Fern up around eye-level, we again spent a day making the track from the west end fit to both follow and walk along, for the latter requiring a considerable amount of benching out on the steeper hillsides to make walking possible. And another day to re-open some more of the route for an earlier part of this walk - just as well we did so as the track was blocked by small fallen timber.

cont.p.5.....

AN ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK, 1990 cont....

March 4th turned out to be a fine but humid day with no wind, but we were very gratified to have the experience of practically everyone who had been on that 10.6 strenuous wakl come to thank us for introducing them to such a wonderful place.

The proof of the pie, of course, and very encouraging, is in the noticeably increasing numbers, especially families with young children, who visit and picnic with walking in the Mount Worth State Park.

However, we rust stress the need for more support from individuals on the Friends Practical Enjoyment Days thus adding to the numbers operating in this favourable season with the approach of adverse weather to prevent moving the track topping. Regular meetings third Sunday each month, plus some days in between.

Jack Brooks, Co-ordinator.

EDWARD HUNTER BUSH RESERVE, MOE

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1989

The Moe City Council's grant to the Committee for 1989 was $6,500. Under the supervision of the Superintendent for Parks and Gardens, Mr Nano Barlagen, Council staff carried out the following work:

- fuel reduction program within the Reserve.
- preparation of fire breaks around the Reserve to meet CFA requirements. In recent years, this has involved citizens living adjacent to the Reserve.
- spot spraying of blackberries and other invasive plants, such as bulbs, which are difficult to remove by hand.
- removal of flax-leaf broom, cotoneaster etc.

Work undertaken or supervised by the Committee:-

- track maintenance fo fire access and pedestrians
- attitudinal survey
- clearance of the stream in the Reserve a second tima by hand in preference to mechanical means.

The preparation of a management plan for the Reserve is currently being undertaken by Mr Peter Butcher under the auspices of the Victorian State College, Rusden, as part of his Land Management Course. It is hoped that the plan will be completed by 1991.

Proposed work to be undertaken by the Venturers - fencing of the stream area for conservation purposes. This will enable them to buy materials for their hut.

Serious erosion has occurred in a fern gully as a result of drainage flowing from Lincoln Street. At this stage, there is no money in Committee's account to remedy the problem. It is hoped that Moe City Council's 1990 Estimates Committee will allocate the necessary funds to allow the Committee to carry out restoration work.

D. Sambell, Club Representative.

CONSERVATION REPORT, MARCH 1990

Posted submission on the Wonnangatta/Moroka management plans.

Received LCC Wilderness Report - submission due 8th June.

Enquired of Australian Heritage Commission re National estates list for our area and also the criteria for listing of areas.

Bon Thompson.

APOLOGY

A report of the Business Meeting of LVFNC, March, 1990 is unable to be published this month.

Copies of the minutes are available from the Secretary.

NATURALIST EDITOR NEEDED

The present Editor of the"Naturalist"will be leaving the position in August and a new Editor is needed.

The"Naturalist"is produced by a team, not just one person. First, the articles for the magazine are selected and typed onto stencils by the Editor.
The stencils are then taken to Andy Ringin who duplicates the required number of pages.
Andy then passes these onto Jessie Burns who collates these pages into magazine form, folds them and sticks on the address labels prepared by Wendy Savage. Jessie also posts the"Naturalist"out to all those people who subscribe to it.

The "Naturalist" is important as a means of keeping in touch with members - advising them of coming events and sharing the knowledge gained on excursions and from guest speakers.

Articles on a variety of subjects by members are also of special interest.

The Editor's job is an interesting one, with a wide range of subject material being presented for publication. It is not hard - both the present Editor and the previous Editor of eighteen years, Lorna Long were not trained typists.

If anyone would like to discuss this further, please contact Pam Petschack on 056 331925.

Please think about it!

Supper roster: Friday, April 27 - Pat and Keith Holywell

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB.	HON. SECRETARY	MEETING
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs. W. Savage 056-342246	7.30pm ~~on 4th~~ Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes Naturalist.

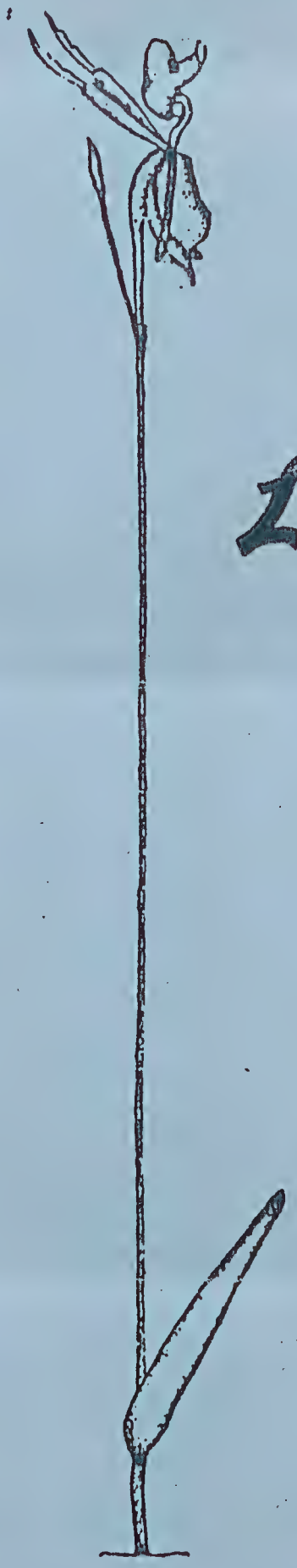
LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from MEMBERS OF ALL CLUBS and should be addressed to:

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MAY 1990

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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, May 25 at 7.30 pm.
Speaker:	Jack and Nancy Brooks on "Fungi".
Excursion:	Saturday, May 26 to Mount Worth State Park to look at Fungi. Meet at car park at Mount Worth State Park at 10 am.
Business meeting:	Wednesday, May 23 at 7.30 pm at YMCA Morwell. All members welcome.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, June 4.
Meeting place.	10 am at car park at Lyrebird Walk, Darlimurla.

Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

June 17 — Track clearing. Rediscovering an old track running up Side Creek from the workshop. Meet at the end of Tebb Terrace at 1.30 pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 231563.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm. Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building, 37 Elgin ST,.,Morwell.

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SUPPLEMENT TO LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB Inc.

The Club thanks you for your support and looks forward to your continued membership for 1990-1991.

Subscriptions to March 31,1991 are due on March 31,1990.

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

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The Treasurer LVFNC Inc.,
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If you are already financial for 1990-1991 please disregard this notice.

You are deemed to be unfinancial if fees are not paid within three months.

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FIELD NATURALISTS

The speaker for our meeting on 23rd of February was Norman Williams of Sale. Norman's address was directed to close-up photography, particularly in the field.

The first segment was on equipment - Norman had his on the table and demonstrated it very clearly. The camera is, of course, all important. The so called "compact" cameras are coming out with all sorts of features and capabilities but he uses and recommends the single lens reflex type (SLR). Those using modern 35 mm film are adequate.The standard lens usually sold with a 35 mm SLR has a focal length of 50 or 55 mm - this lens is not suitable for close-up work without accessories.

The simplest but probably the most expensive method is to buy a special purpose MACRO lens which has a very long focussing range. These lenses usually work down to 1:1 magnification - when the image on the film is the same size as the subject and should not be confused with normal lenses having a "macro facility".

A simple but much cheaper method is to purchase a set of supplementary close-up lenses. These lenses are quite thin and look like clear filters; they screw on to the front of normal lenses in the same manner. Quite high magnifications can be achieved by this method and good results obtained provided the supplementaries are of good quality. Prices can vary between $5 and $100 each.

The third method is used and recommended by Norman. For most of his work he uses extension tubes or an extension bellows (or both) with a 35mm SLR. Tubes and bellows are very simply screwed or bayonetted between the camera body and the lens. There are two versions of these accessories, manual and auto. The dearer auto versions are not necessary. The tubes are usually sold in sets of three different lengths giving different magnifications - they can be used individually or in combination.

Special purpose lenses are made for use on bellows - they are cheaper than standard lenses as they do not have a focussing ring - you focus by moving the complete camera on a focussing rail on your tripod.Good quality enlarger lenses can also be used and give excellent results.

The tripod needs to be very sturdy and versatile, capable of holding the camera plus all those accessories and maybe a couple of flash units on adjustable arms and of holding them very steady and as near to the ground as possible. A suitable type was demonstrated. Small table top tripods can be all right if you are using a macro lens on its own or supplementary lens on a standard lens. You will need clips or clamps on adjustable arms to steady specimen stems or to hold unwanted vegetation out of the way.In some cases you will need an artificial background. Norman uses a sheet of ply, a slotted base to hold it and a random pattern cloth to drape over it.

It's advisable to carry reflectors to direct available light onto the subject or to relieve harsh shadows - white ply, ice cream container lids, aluminium foil or mirrors can be used. An umbrella and a ground sheet to lie on wet

cont.p.2.....

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FIELD NATURALISTS cont....

ground are useful. Finally you need some packhorses (or a spouse) to tote all this junk.

In the field, wind is a major problem, hence the clamps, but patience is rewarding; if you wait long enough there will be a lull. Intruding vegetation can call for some judicious "gardening". Norman then went on to emphasise the need to look in front and behind the subject. Background is extremely important: you must avoid competition from other bright objects, patches of bright sky through foliage and grass stems (particularly brown ones). Foregrounds are important too, grass stems again and any out of focus material -- bright or not.

The next segment related to exposure which is always a compromise. In most cases you want the highest f number to get the greatest depth of field in focus and on the other hand, fastest shutter speed to combat wind and vibration. Norman usually uses Kodachrome 64 but pointed out that modern faster films are much better than they used to be.

If you are using an auto macro lens on its own or supplementary lenses on a standard lens the camera's automatic exposure system is not upset, but if you are using any extension device between the camera and the lens the f numbers on the lens barrel are no longer correct -- correction tables are available.

The last segment dealt with electronic flash. Automatic flashes are not suitable in most cases as they are not programmed to the higher f numbers needed for good depth of field. Quite small manual units with a guide number of 16-20 are adequate. Norman emphasised that for close-up work the normal formula for flash to subject distance does not work. Again tables are available to help you out. Two or more flashes can be used for modelling, reducing harsh shadows, back lighting etc., but tables are needed for these too. The additional flashes can be fired by slave units. In table top or studio work a 300 watt porta flood can be set up to find the right angle for the flash and any reflectors you may wish to use. When satisfied, remove the porta flood and set up the flash in its place.

Norman then projected a series of excellent slides. He started off with his "failures", demonstrating the features he had told us to avoid. These were followed by some really first class work. People being people (thank goodness) some members liked some of his "failures" better than his A1s.

Thanks for a good job well done Norman Williams.

With a vote of thanks, President Jane gave him a momento of his visit to us.

Ron Court.

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA ON

Psoralea tenax - Lindley - Tough Psoralea

Family - FABACEAE

DESCRIPTION

From key characters of P. tenax used by Willis (1972):-
"low, straggling herbaceous perennial; leaves with 5 (rarely 7 or 3) leaflets which seldom exceed 2.5cm (if longer, then very narrow); leaflets entire, equidistant and digitate on petiole; flowers in short spikes; corolla bluish, standard less then 6mm wide".
However, there is some confusion about the correct application of the name Psoralea tenax. Willis (1972) claims that the taxonomic boundary between P. adscendens and P.tenax in Victoria is rather hazy and that there is a need for a competent revision of all Australian Psoralea species, some of which remain inadequately known and described.
The description given by Cunningham et.al. (1981) differs in some details. It has been suggested that collections from Queensland and north-eastern NSW presently regarded as P. tenax represent a different taxon, though it may prove conspecific with the southern populations (Scarlett 1984).

HABITAT

P.tenax formerly occupied a wider range of habitats than the present range, but all localities share the features of relatively fertile soils with average annual rainfall at or below 550mm per annum. A degree of seasonal waterlogging would occur at most localities, the most notable exception is the Deddick River locality in East Gippsland which is gravelly ground in steep hilly country (Scarlett 1984).
Typically p.tenax is found on grasslands or grassy woodlands, in areas subject to seasonal flooding, frequently at sites slightly elevated above the level of the heavy floodplain clays. Also found in and around sandy ephemeral streams and creek beds (Scarlett 1984).

DISTRIBUTION

P.tenax was present in a number of locations to the north and west of Melbourne. However recent searches have failed to locate it in the area west of Melbourne apart from the Sydenham Wildflower Sanctuary and on private property at Deer Park. Also searches have not been successful at several other locations notably areas near Bacchus Marsh, Castlemaine, Lake Eildon, Maffra and Deddick River (Scarlett 1984).
In summary, it appears that the Victorian distribution of P.tenax is limited to two locations near Melbourne (Sydenham and Deer Park), probably one in East Gippsland (although searches in February 1980 suggest that it may have disappeared from this area) and several locations in the Murray River area near Mildura (Scarlett 1984).

INFORMATION ON Psoralea tenax cont.....

CONSERVATION STATUS

P.tenax is listed as endangered in Victoria by Gullan et.al. (in prep.) and by Scarlett (1984) i.e. the species is rare and at risk of disappearing in the wild if present land uses and other causal factors continue to operate. Although the Sydenham population is on land owned by Telecom and most stands along the Murray in the Mildura area are on public land, the long term conservation of the species cannot be assured unless strict conservation management procedures (particularly with regard to grazing and fire regimes) are introduced and observed.
It must be pointed out that on present knowledge P.tenax is not present on any biological reserve in NSW. Thus its conservation in Victoria is vital for the survival of the species over its total range (Scarlett 1984).

THREATS

Land clearance, cultivation and heavy grazing have eliminated the species over most of its former range. It has failed to survive in the usual refuges such as railway reserves and roadsides. The species flowers in summer and autumn; it is likely that regular summer burning eliminates the species by preventing effective flowering and seeding. Severe summer drought periods combined with grazing pressure during such periods would tend to eliminate the plant (Scarlett 1984).

The major threats to the survival of the species may therefore be summarized as follows:-
- excessive grazing by stock, rabbits and native animals.
- further reduction of native habitat for agricultural or forestry purposes.
- incorrect timing of summer burning resulting in destruction of seed.
- natural causes such as floods, fires and drought.

CRITERIA

The taxon Psoralea tenax is eligible for listing under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988:

It is significantly prone to future threats which are likely to lead to extinction because:

- it is presumed extinct at locations where it was previously recorded and
- it is extremely rare in terms of abundance and distribution
- it is prone to elimination by over-grazing and particularly in times of drought
- it natural habitat is in danger of being reduced by further agricultural and forestry activities
- regular summer burning could eliminate the species by preventing effective flowering and seeding.

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cont.p.5....

INFORMATION ON Psoralea tenax cont....

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Thanks to Ross Verrall for allowing this information to be used.

SURVIVAL

It is not often that we witness a struggle for survival in the wild, but while staying in the Grampians in September we saw an event that probably happens regularly.

We had some wonderful bird life outside our kitchen window- five kookaburras, willy wagtails, yellow-rumped thornbills and one afternoon, a mother chestnut teal with a collection of very young ducklings.

While we watched, trying to count the ducklings as they straggled in all directions, a kookaburra swooped down and landed on one of them. He picked it up by the neck and shook it from side to side until it was limp and then flew off with it.

The mother duck was then trying to round up her remaining ducklings when she strayed into magpie territory and was dive-bombed by two magpies and driven away.

By now, the ducklings were in two groups and heading in opposite directions. Mother duck found a group of four and quickly started to lead them away from the marauding kookaburra, while the remaining three ducklings wandered further away from her.

Our dilemma was how to return the three ducklings to the mother without frightening her away and leaving all of them exposed to the kookaburra.

We transported the three a little closer, but mother duck had disappeared under a fence.

We were left wondering about their fate and whether it is the fittest who survive, or only the luckiest.

Pam Petschack.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC HELD ON 25/4/90

Eight members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from the previous minutes (of interest):

AGM March 23 - Secretary 2 year term. No nominations or offers received to date.
- Publicity Officer. Pat Holywell has accepted this offer. Appointment ratified by J.Wall/B.Thompson. Appreciation recorded.

Finance:

Cheque account	$697.18
Investment account	not available
Conservation account	not available

General Business (of interest):

1. Camp Gelantipy. BFNC Club have invited us to join them at Camp Gelantipy over Australia Day Weekend (Friday Jan. 25 to Monday 28, 1991).
Camp consists mainly of self contained cottages (7 or so) each with kitchens and equipment (no linen). Cost per cottage $45 per night. Beth Isaacsen thinking of 20 people and would book three cottages. There is a central dining room for camp. Good interesting local areas with no need for long car travel each day.
Who at this stage could be interested?

2. BFNC 30th Anniversary November. Speaker, Bruce Nicholson, founding member of Club. We are invited.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Received replies to:
Submission on Tyers Park and Moondarra State Park Proposed Management Plan.
Submission on Planning of the Yarra Forest "Have Your Say".
List of areas in Gippsland placed on the National Estate Register.

Presented submission for:
Latrobe Valley Water Industry - Future Management - Draft Recommendations.

Discuss submissions for:
Land Conservation Council Wilderness Report
Retractable Waste Report.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 23,1990 at 7.30pm YHCA Morwell. All members welcome.

Supper roster: Friday, May 25 Julie Parker and Jill Porter.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB.	HON. SECRETARY	MEETING
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.	Mrs. G.Trainor L.V.F.N.C. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051-343659 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs. M. Savage 056-342246	7.30pm ~~on 4th~~ Friday each month at Reg. Education Centre, Kirk St Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr. D.C.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051-489251	8.00pm on 1st Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr. F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056-232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs. Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880	8.00pm on 3rd Friday each month at C.W.A. Hall, Bairnsdale.

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NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

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JUNE 1990

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Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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COMING EVENTS

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Meeting: Friday, June 22 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: David Thomas. Life Cycle of a River.

Excursion: Saturday, June 23.
Meet at the Oasis Cafe at Toongabbie at 10 am to look at Stony Creek and Falls Creek on the Thomson River. River features and the effects of the recent massive flooding will be seen.

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, July 2.

Meeting place: 10 am at the car park at Morwell National Park.

Warragul Field Naturalist Club: Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

July 15 Tree planting - there are lots of areas and Rob has lots of trees.
Meet at the end of Tebb Terrace at 1.30pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the third Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks, phone 056 231563, for details.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm.
Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building,
37 Elgin Street, Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE No 318 JUNE 1990

A DAY IN THE FORESTS

Saturday 24th March, thirty members of LVFNC met at Erica where we were welcomed by Mr Frank Noble, Regional Manager CFL who introduced Mr Brian Ward of CFL and Mr Geoff Pyke from CFL Erica Office.

We were all given a most informative booklet prepared by CFL Central Gippsland Region. Mr Stephen Guest from Victorian Association of Forest Industries also joined us for the day.

A program for the day was included in our booklet and we managed to keep fairly well to the prescribed timetable.

The vehicle convoy set off to the first stop at Brisbane Road. We turned from Thomson Valley Road and descended the winding road to the Wattle Reafforestation Site (coupe). This area was burned in 1932 and 1939 wild fires. Regeneration of the Mountain Ash, E.regnans, had taken place after the 1932 fire, however this was subsequently killed in the 1939 fire, and in the absence of a viable eucalypt seed source, silver wattle dominated the site.

An aerial photograph of the area was passed round for all to see. The photograph showed clearly the whole area with patches of Silver Wattle, A.dealbata, among the Ash forest. This area has been cleared of wattle and is to be planted in winter of 1990 with Mountain Ash seedlings. Seed is grown at Won Wron and seedling trees will be planted at a rate of 1500 stems per hectare.

This is the lower limit for Mountain Ash forest in Thomson Valley, 500 metres above sea level.

It was time to move on to the next area, so with much moving of cars to be turned in the direction to ascend the road, we were on our way again.

Travelling along the Thomson Valley Road to Brandy Road where we were at a much higher altitude, there were good stands of trees as we drove along Brandy Road. It was explained that this area had been harvested in 1986 and 1987 and a site preparation burn was done in Autumn 1988, before seeding.

The seedlings were growing well in this area. A good seed bed is essential for good regrowth, hence the burning just before seeding the area.

Seeding can be done from the air, but also by personnel walking the area scattering the seeds. Seed trees can also be used to provide a seed source.

Other suitable species for planting or seeding are Shining Gum, E.nitens, Alpine Ash, E.delegatensis, We viewed the regrowth which was battling with other species eg.wattles. Wildlife habitats are important in forests and can be excluded from logging. Habitat trees are often left standing within the harvested area.

We were on the move again to Ezards Road. On arrival, the site was of almost total devastation from very recent logging and burning operations; some areas were still smouldering in the blackness. It was explained that this area was still being logged and soon we were confronted by two fully laden log trucks. I don't know who was the more surprised!!

cont.p.2.....

A DAY IN THE FORESTS cont....

Cars were moved to the side of the road and the trucks could pass by.

We journeyed on to the landing which is the working area of the coupe. Maintenance men were attending the machines there were saw logs awaiting loading and we stood on layers of bark which had been stripped from the trees before loading. The Mill does not take bark and the trucks do not want to carry it so it is just left in the area. The different grades of saw logs were explained; there are four grades and then pulpwood requirements are met.

Workers in the forest must be competent in skills and safety is paramount. Licences are issued by CFL who also conduct courses for forest workers. It is in the workers own interests to follow the safety code. Thunder was rumbling around us and soon large rain drops were falling, so some of the party took refuge in the cars. It was not long before we all joined them and prepared to drive to the lunch place at Thomson Dam picnic area. We all enjoyed lunch in the sunshine, gathering our strength for the next part of the excursion.

We travelled the road through Rawson township to the Tyers Walhalla Road. We stopped to view some natural regrowth 60-80 years old. The area had been totally utilised (saw log and pulpwood) thinned at some time. This is a much lower elevation, dryer, and contained different species. Among them were Messmate, E.obliqua, Silvertop, E.sieberi, Yellow Stringybark, E.muellarana, and Mountain Grey Gum, E.cypellocarpa.

It was explained that this type of forest has tremendous regenerative capacity and appears to recover on its own. This area is now managed to provide saw logs, pulpwood, firewood as well as providing habitat and catchment protection.

There were two other stops in the Boola Forest. One area was a regrowth forest not thinned; it had been clearfelled in 1940s-50s and natural regrowth had taken place. The next stop was at a place where there was unthinned forest on one side of the road and thinned forest on the other side. The area had been thinned using mechanical means; the machinery de-barks and de-limbs the trees. Few men are required for this operation.

There were some habitat trees standing. This is an experimental area and would have few saw logs - but still satisfies APM requirements for pulpwood. The trees were mostly Silvertop and Stringybark.

As this was the last stop for the day, our President Jane thanked Mr Noble for his excellent leadership during the day. Jane also thanked Mr Stephen Guest for his assistance during the day.

We made our different ways home to vote and wash cars which was an essential operation after the dusty roads we had travelled. This was a most enjoyable day in the forests.

I must thank Mr Geoff Pyke of CFL Erica for his help in reading and correcting this article before publication.

Lorna M. Long.

ARBOR WEEK

Field Naturalist members met at Crinigan Road car park to await the arrival of approximately 100 Morwell Park Primary School children who were taking part in "Arbor Week".

At the appointed time of arrival we saw in the distance a long stream of children wending their way towards us. Teachers made themselves known, arranged small groups and allocated four Field Naturalists to a group. Each group was given a map which was marked with the track they were to follow.

On the track we found a large variety of flora such as Fungi, Lichens, Mosses, Sundews, Bluebells, two Gnat Orchids, different shrubs, tree seeds and a very different tree, later identified as the Wild Cherry.

Among the fauna seen were a glimpse of a few unidentified birds, spiders, ants large and small, grasshoppers, beetles and the scratchings of an echidna. The special find was the number of galls on the trees.

Walking towards the central meeting point, the children noticed the trees they had planted a year before were now much taller; also that some had been vandalised. They were also aware of the difference between planting and natural growth.

Before parting, Mr Lubcke spoke to the children, stating that it is not enough to just plant a tree - we must continue to care for it by watering and weeding.

One pupil came forward to thank us on behalf of the children and teachers. We then said goodbye and went our separate ways.

Members felt the children were well behaved and interested in all they saw.

Thank you, children, for a lovely afternoon outing.

Bon Thompson and Jim Wall

GUM TREES

At the Crinigan Road Reserve outing with the children, the reason for eucalypt trees being called "Gum Trees" was raised.

I had always thought it was not correct to call the whole genus "Gum Trees" but rather that the term applied to the group of smooth barked trees with "gum" included in the common name. eg. Forest Red Gum, Fuchsia Gum, Blue Gum etc.

However in "Flora of Australia" Volume 19 in the introduction it mentions"the genus Eucalyptus - the gum trees". This must mean the common name refers to the whole genus. In Webster's dictionary "a gum tree is the name given to several trees in America and Australia (a) the Black Gum (Nyssa multiflora) in the Southern States; (b) A tree of the genus Eucalyptus; (c) the sweet gum tree of U.S.(Liquidamber styraciflua)It exudes an aromatic juice".

In the glossary of "Forest Trees of Australia" mention is made of gum vein (of wood) = a ribbon of gum between growth rings which may be bridged radially at short intervals by wood tissue. Mainly in eucalypt timbers". So perhaps this is

cont.p.4.....

GUM TREES - cont.....

the reason the common name applies to most species. There are other Australian genera in which gum, or kino, is exuded when a tree is damaged, so I do not feel that would be the reason for the common name.

However, perhaps other members have more information. If so, please share it with us.

Bon Thompson.

THE CHILDREN'S COMMENTS

I was interested to find out about the fungi and how most of it was poison but some of it wasn't. Bohdan.

I hadn't seen galls before and I was surprised to find out that there were little insects inside them. Angela.

I was really surprised that the long green tubes on the gum leaves were not part of the plant but were really a kind of gall. Jaime.

I liked being told about the trees and nature and what kind of trees there were in the Reserve. Michael.

I was amazed to find a tree which had half its bark rough but the other half was smooth. Narelle.

I was amazed at how much the MFN people knew and how quickly they could answer all our questions. Gavin.

To the members of the MFNA.
Our grade, 5J, would like to thank you for all the time and effort you put in for us.
We enjoyed the afternoon and appreciated you teaching us all about the interesting things at the Crinigan Road bush.

Dear Field Naturalists.
Thank you for showing us the different trees and different fungi.
We all enjoyed it. From 5P, Morwell Park Primary.

Dear Field Naturalists.
Thankyou for showing us around Crinigan Road bush and spending your time to show and identify plants, wildlife and native birds.
We learnt a lot because you were there to help us.
Yours faithfully, 5G.

MAGAZINE LIBRARY

Throughout the year, the Field Naturalist Club receives various publications from clubs in other areas. These vary in content and interest value.

Some are purely a diary of events of a particular club - others contain reports and studies on a variety of naturalist subjects.

As each publication reaches me, a record is made of its receipt and notes taken of any contents of interest.

I keep the latest editions of each publication - the rest are passed on to Iris Petersen to be added to the Club Library.

Should anyone wish to borrow magazines, they will be available from me at our monthly meetings.

Below is a list of publications received by the Club with comment as to the content.

MAGAZINE	SOURCE	FREQUENCY	CONTENT
The Clematis	Dairnsdale	Annually(Dec)	Various studies
Geelong Naturalist	Geelong	Quarterly	Good studies/ reports
F.N. Club Newsletter	Loch Sport	Spasmodic	Club news and excursions
SGAP	Maroondah	Monthly	Club news and calendar
N.E.Naturalist	Tasmania	Quarterly	Mainly club news/diary
Victorian Naturalist	Melbourne	Bi-monthly	Good detailed studies/reports
Northern Territory Naturalist	Winnellia, N.T.	Bi-monthly	Mainly club news
Environment Victoria	Melbourne	Bi-monthly	Environment topics
The Weta	N.Zealand	Quarterly	Insects
Australian Ranger Bulletin		Annually	Variousstudies/ reports

Dorothy Farrow.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC ON 23/5/90

Seven members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from the minutes:(of interest)

Secretary. Two year term. B.Nielsen has accepted nomination. Committee approved this appointment and will put to General Meeting for ratification.

Dept. of Conservation and Environment. J.Blucher nominated to Central Gippsland Management Plan.

Finance:		
	Cheque account	$1011.33
	Investment account	$2199.07
	Conservation account	$ 144.79

General Business (of Interest):

Monash Uni. research students want Club assistance on weed infestation study. Interested in structure and scope of Club influence and activities.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1.Posted Submission on Intractable Waste Task Force.
2.Replied to Neil Cragie re information for their studies of rivers and streams in the Latrobe River Basin and the Thomson River Catchment (excluding Macalister River Catchment).
3.Preparing submission on LCC Wilderness Report.
4.Bon attended launching of the State Plantation Impact Study in Melbourne.Bon is disappointed that the study has stated that steeper and rougher land would be excluded because of financial pressures and the need to mechanise forestry operations. This excludes the rest of the Strzeleckis from Government plantations.Other recommendations emphasise the encouragement of the Plantation Sharefarming Scheme on Farmers' lands to meet 50% of new softwood plantings. Covernment, through Dept. C and E, to contribute to part of the cost of maintaining and upgrading local roads used for timber cartage, share costs of fencing; adopt weed and vermin control to same standards as farmers have to; provide wildlife corridors and in general be neighbour friendly. These plantations are softwood plantations. Hardwood plantations for pulpwood production should be the responsibility of the private sector; that hardwood plantations should be included under the Plantation Sharefarming Scheme and that a draft hardwood plantation strategy be prepared for public comment.
There are 41 recommendations in all.
Copies of the report and recommendations are available from Dept C & E.
5. We have had contact with both the Shire of Traralgon engineer and Dept. C & E Flora and Fauna Officer about the pine trees on Clark's Road, Traralgon South.
6. 18 members attended the afternoon at Crinigan Road Reserve with the grades 3 and 5 students of Morwell Park.
P.S.The outing was a success.

Next meeting: Wed.June 20 at 7.30pm. YMCA, Morwell.

Supper roster: June 22. Matti Sterkenberg and Val Plant.

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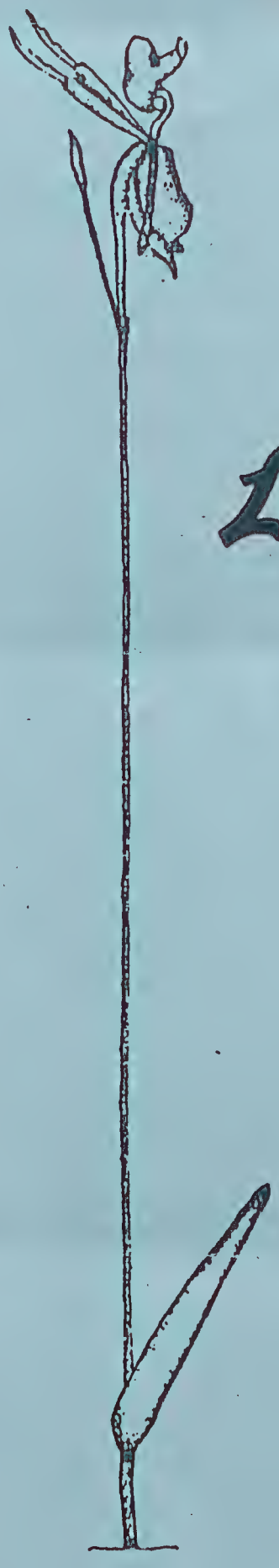
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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, July 27 at 7.30 pm.
Speaker:	Beverley van Praagh on "Worms".
Excursion:	Saturday, July 28. Excursion to visit site of field studies at Loch. Meet at Loch General Store/Newsagents at 10.30 am.
Business meeting:	Wednesday, July 25 at 7.30 pm at YMCA, Morwell. All members welcome.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, August 6.
Meeting place:	10 am at Trafalgar Railway Station car park for excursion to Mosquito Creek Catchment area.

Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

August 5	Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting. Meet at the depot garage at 1.30pm. Plate please.
August 19	R & R Day. Walk, Talk and Gawk. Let's explore the flora of our park. Meet in Fosters Gully at 1.30 pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group.

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm. Amalgamated Metal Workers Union Building, 37 Elgin St., Morwell.

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MOSSES

Ten year's careful study of mosses and liverworts have made our speaker for the April meeting, Mr Arthur Thies, an expert on these small plants and a knowledgeable speaker on their different kinds.

In opening his talk, Mr Thies pointed out that we loosely refer to moss on the house roof tiles, moss in our lawns and mosses in the damp areas of our gardens, yet all of these may not strictly be moss. The "moss" on our rooves is a lichen, in the lawn true moss, and in the damp places it could be a liverwort.

The first slides Mr Thies showed were of mosses from areas as far apart as the Carnarvon Gorge in Queensland and the bog mosses of the mountain areas of southern Australia which take up to fifty times their dry weight in water. This distribution shows the ubiquitousness of the group in damp areas.

One of the conspicuous features of a moss plant at certain times of the year is the spore capsules. The developing capsule is surrounded by the calyptra and mounted on a thin stem, the seta. When the calyptra splits, the mouth of the capsule covered by the operculum is revealed. After the operculum falls off, a double peristome of 8 or 16 or 32 or 64 teeth is revealed, the teeth contracting with moisture and temperature. The spores are typically about 25 microns in diameter, i.e. 40 to a millimetre or 1000 to an inch.

The life cycle of the moss has alternating generations; the spore and the plant [illegible] haploid (n chromosomes) and the zygote, the seta, the capsule and operculum being diploid (2n chromosomes). In Dawsonia superba the plant is dioicous i.e. with separate male and female plants. The male plant is bluish-green, the female yellowish-green. In Dawsonia the peristome has 64 teeth (the teeth numbers are multiples of four). Other species are monoicous i.e. the male and female organs are on the one plant. In others, the male plant is parasitic on a leaf of the female plant.

Mosses also reproduce asexually in a vegetative sense. In some, the brittle tips of the gametophyte break off and start new plants. In others, there may be gemmae of a few or many cells or sticks of gemmae of 10 to 20 cells forming a brown mass in the terminal axils. Any part of moss plant can start a new plant.

The leaves of mosses are important in the classification and keying out of the species. Moss leaves may have a central nerve, a border of narrow cells and often large brown cells near the insertion of the leaf with the stem. In some leaves the cells are all the same, in others, eg. Sphagnum, there are large empty cells surrounded by strands of green cells, the former taking up water.

The leaves in Fissidens are double near the stem and this is the only moss in Victoria and Australia that has this characteristic. In Dawsonia cross sections of the leaves reveal ridges (lamellae) which are two cells high in some species, in others ten.

At this stage, Mr Thies showed diagrams giving the relationships in plant classification of the Bryophyta with other members of the Plant Kingdom. The Bryophyta are in

cont.p.2.....

MOSSES cont.....

with the Thallophyta not the vascular plants such as the ferns and flowering plants. Mr Thies then demonstrated with a fresh bean pod and seed the difference between a spore and a seed, the latter containing a food store and an embryo plant with root and shoot clearly visible whereas a spore is a single cell.

In the break between the mosses and liverworts, Mr Thies showed some beautiful slides of the moon and also one of some unusual ice crystals.

There are two types of liverworts, leafy and thallose. An example of the latter, Marchantia, was shown first with gemmae in circular cups on the surface which also had white pits which were air pores. Another common thallose liverwort, Lunularia,has half-moon shaped gemma cups. The sporophyte of Marchantia and another thallose liverwort, Asterella,were also shown. Some thallose liverworts of the genus Riccia are covered with black scales underneath and some have the spore capsule imbedded in the body of the liverwort.

With the leafy liverworts, the stem bears two parallel rows of leaves and there is often a third row of leaves under the stem. The sporophytes are not as varied as in the mosses and consist, when ripe, of a black nob on a white stem, the nob bursting into four valves. There are elaters in the capsules which absorb water and bend, distributing the spores. Some species just appear to be a mass of threads, millimetres wide, others have papillae on their leaves (the papillae are two to three cells high) and others have water sacs on the leaves.

To collect and preserve mosses and liverworts, one does not press as with other plants, but dry and store them in paper pockets with all the relevant information on the outside.

This talk proved to be a most informative introduction to a little known group and we thank Mr Thies for coming so far to increase our knowledge.

Barbara Nielsen.

LVFNC EXCURSION TO GLEN NAYOOK

Saturday, 28th April, 1990

Some 25 people met at Neerim South, and then travelled to the Reserve with Jack Brooks taking the lead. Jack also led a morning and an afternoon walk into the Reserve, one to the "left" and one to the "right" half of the circuit.

The main interest on this day were the mosses and liverworts. Arthur Thies, who had addressed the Club on the night before on the subject, identified them and spoke about their various features, often relating them to slides that he had shown. An attached list names the 23 mosses and 20 liverworts found.

Fungi seen included the "note pad" Ganoderma applantum, a cordiceps, a cortinarius, a coprinus, an earth star, "forest mushrooms", and unidentified others.

Arthur Thies

GLEN NAYOOK SCENIC RESERVE

List of Mosses and Liverworts

The following bryophytes were found in the Reserve during a visit by the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc. on Saturday, 28th April 1990.

Bryum argenteum and Campylopus clavatus were found next to the picnic area. The other species were found in the Reserve proper and seemed to be spread throughout the Reserve, many in great abundance. They are typical and quite common for the habitat, except perhaps that Papillaria nitens is said to be rare in Victoria in "The Mosses of Southern Australia" by Scott, Stone and Rosser.

Mosses	Liverworts
Achrophyllum dentatum	Aneura alterniloba
Atrichum androgynum	Ballantiopsis diplophylla
Bryum argenteum	Bazzania involuta
B. billardieri	Chiloscyphus argutus
Calyptopogon mniodes	C. fissistipus
Campylopus clavatus	Frullania falciloba
Cyathophorum bulbosum	Gackstroemia weindorferi
Dicranoloma menziesii	Hymenophyton flabellatum
Ditrichum sp.	Lejeunea drummondii
Fissidens asplenioides	Lepidozia laevifolia
F. pallidus	Lophocolea muricata
F. taylorii	L. semiteres
Hypnodendron vitiense	Lunularia cruciata
Hypnum cupressiforme	Radula buccinfera
Lembophyllum divulsum	Riccardia cochleata
Leptotheca gaudichaudii	Symphyogyna podophylla
Leucobryum candidum	Telaranea centipes
Papillaria nitens	Tylimanthus diversifolius
Philonotis tenuis	Zoopsis argentea
Pogonatum subulatum	
Thuidium furfurosum	
Zygodon intermedius	
Wijkia extenuata	

Arthur Thies

POSTSCRIPT

It was good to have our visiting speaker offer to write up the Saturday outing. Perhaps it happens once every five years.

So, we do need volunteers to write up excursions each month. Please take a turn. Note that the write-ups can be informal. The visiting speakers are happy to check your material before you send it to the Editor. Please accept this additional check.

Gwyn Trainor.

MORE ABOUT GUM TREES

Bon Thompson's article (L.V.Naturalist, June 1990) raised the question as to the reason for Eucalypts being called "Gum Trees" and this caused me to spend an interesting and informative hour one rainy afternoon surrounded by "Eucalypt" volumes.

It was not until I turned to a small Periwinkle paperback - "Australian Eucalypts" by Mervyn Millett, that I finally had success. A section of the introduction to this excellent little book is devoted to "historical".

It would seem that in 1642 the sailor Abel Tasman noted a "gum-lac" in tall trees when he visited Tasmania in the "Heemskerck", then in 1688 William Dampier landed from the "Cygnet" on the N.W. coast of Western Australia and noted there some trees with an exudation which he described as "gum". Dampier wrongly thought that this was the same as a resinous substance obtained from the Dragon tree (Dracaena drago)of the Canary Islands.

The next sailor to bring men into contact with our "Gum-trees" was Captain James Cookin the "Endeavour". He had on board the young naturalist Joseph Banks, who noted once more the treacle-like substance from Eucalypts (although they were not yet named as such) near Botany Bay in 1770.

Mr Millett states - "It is not surprising, therefore, that Governor Phillip, who founded the British colony in Australia, called the eucalypts "Gum-trees" when he sent specimens of Eucalyptus resinifera to Sir Joseph Banks from Sydney on 15th May 1788.

And so, the misnomer "Gum-trees has been with us ever since. To add to the confusion of common speech, some people still call all eucalypts "Gum-trees". Foresters, however, reserve the term "Gums" for one group of eucalypts having smooth barks, while they call the other five main groupings of eucalypts (according to their bark) bloodwoods, ironbarks, stringybarks, peppermints and boxes.

All eucalypts have kino with properties quite different from the truly mucilaginous g.m produced by species of such genera as Liquidamber, Acacia and Prunus.We should call our Eucalypts "eucalypts" when we speak of them generally, and use the scientific name when we speak of them particularly."

Mr Millett, of course, is speaking scientifically, but I am afraid that the name "Gum-tree" has become dear to the hearts of most Australians; and since we are a people who tend to affectionately call our red-headed friends "Bluey", our lanky friends "Shorty" and our sober-faced friends "Smiler", I doubt whether we will ever be greatly worried about the fact that "Gum-tree" is a misnomer.

June Lubcke.

A LETTER FROM LAUNCHING PLACE

It is time to renew my subscription to the L.V. Naturalist and I have pleasure in enclosing cheque for $10.

I look forward to receiving each copy of the magazine with its interesting contents, keeping me in touch with the Club and old friends. In the years since I left the area at Christmas 1973 I have followed the Club's activities and noted with admiration the increasing importance of the work being done in environmental matters, both locally and State-wide, and the co-operation being sought by and given to Government departments and other authorities in these matters.

The Club is indeed going from strength to strength and is to be congratulated. It must be a wonderful example to all organisations concerned with our wild life and protection of our natural environment. Best wishes for continued success.

"Betty".

CAMPING AT CAPE EVERARD

Yesterday a lyrebird came very close. I was standing by our tent when I saw her (maybe male without lyre feathers yet - it had 10-12 long, broad grey tail feathers) scratching purposefully beneath the trees. I watched for maybe an hour as it ran up a tree, quite high, and down, scratching and eating with a yellow robin sharing the meal, and then on to the prostrate tree trunk on which I was leaning. It walked to about a metre from my face and then turned round and walked back and flew higher up one of the other trunks of this marvellous tree and preened for a long time before fluttering down to continue feeding.

Down on the beach, beyond the grass-topped humps of the dunes, two dotterels with black caps and white scarves were running very fast indeed over the sand.

On the broad sand stretch where the Thurra River approaches the sea there are always pied cormorants.

The noisest birds about are flocks of little wattle birds. They seem to click as well as squawk. I wonder if they are guilty af pulling off the yellow coastal banksia flowers. Even before the wind we saw many lying on the ground, often in cross-sections like fallen stars.

Extracts from a letter by Marjory Burgess to Jean Galbraith.

PLEASE WRITE

More short articles are needed for the Naturalist. Anything from a few lines to half a page is useful to fill up a page after a longer article. Articles by children are very welcome.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC Inc. ON 20/6/90

Nine members present. Two apologies.

Business of interest arising from the minutes:

Secretary.Two year term.B.Nielsen's position ratified at General Meeting. J.Purbrick extends her personal thanks to Barbara for taking on the job.

Monash Uni. research students and Club assistance on Weed Infestation Study, completed by Thompsons.

Clark's Road and Calignee Road-removal of pine trees. A. Horner (C&E) to organize cutting down in Clark's Road and Traralgon Council truck to remove. Grant not obtained.

Finance:		
	Cheque account	$1035.21
	Investment account	$2199.07
	Conservation account	$144.79

General Business (of interest):

Polystyrene cups for supper at Genaral Meeting. W. Savage suggests we review their use as they represent an environmental problem. Agreed that their use not advisable. Alternatives (paper cups or wash up Centre cups) to be canvassed at July General Meeting.

August and September speakers to swap. Ken Harris in August. A.Ewen and R. Court in September.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Forwarded submission on LCC Wilderness-Special Investigation. Received acknowledgement.

Dept. of C & E wrote re Water Sector Agencies in this new department. Dept. of Water Resources will continue to operate as previously for time being.

Contacted Traralgon City Council re Residential Study. Traralgon Botanical Gardens area included as potential residential development area.

Dept. of C & E with Shire of Traralgon to cut down pines on Clark's Road commencing on Monday.

Mr and Mrs Wall and Thompson attended launching of "Steps Ahead" Strategy for Latrobe Region by LRC.

Request discussion re deputation to Minister for C & E re plantations and revegetation in the Strzelecki Ranges. Motion that this be done: B.Nielsen/P.Rayment.

Next meeting: Wednesday,July 25 1990.7.30pm YMCA Morwell.

Supper roster:Friday,July 27. Jean Wilbraham and Peg Wall.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C.Inc.	Miss.B.Nielsen L.V.F.N.C.Inc. P.O.Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St. Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880	8.00 pm on third Friday each month at C.W.A.Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N.O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

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8 Church St
Trafalgar 3824



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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, August 24 at 7.30 pm.
Speaker:	Ken Harris on "Tasmanian Flora and Fauna".
Excursion:	Saturday, August 25. Excursion to Morwell National Park. Meet at car park at 10 am.
Business meeting:	Wednesday, August 22 at 7.30 pm at YMCA Morwell. All members welcome.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, September 3.
Meeting place:	10 am in car park at Edward Hunter Reserve , Coalville Road, Moe.

Warragul FNC. Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

September 16	Koala survey. Lots of eyes needed for best results. Meet in Fosters Gully at 1.30 pm.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Migrant Resource Centre, 92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

OUTING TO MOUNT WORTH, 26 MAY 1990

LED BY JACK BROOKS

Part 1 - Before lunch

During the morning, Jack led us to the two largest trees in the park, the "fallen giant" and the "standing giant". The fallen giant came first, and Jack had armed himself and Ollie with knife and slash-hook , to penetrate the bush to find the final resting place of the enormous tree.

The weather settled in to a very light drizzle or mist, which lent atmosphere to the fern-clad forest.

Ferns were the most conspicuous plants and in the course of the morning we saw the following species:-

Common filmy-fern	Hymenophyllum cupressiforme
Shiny filmy-fern	Hymenophyllum flabellatum
Veined bristle-fern	Polyphlebium venosum
Rough tree-fern	Cyathea australis
Soft tree-fern	Dicksonia antarctica
Finger fern	Grammitis billardieri
Kangaroo fern	Microsorium diversifolium
Necklace fern	Asplenium flabellifolium
Mother spleenwort	Asplenium bulbiferum
Ray water-fern	Blechnum fluviatile
Strap water-fern	Blechnum patersonii
Hard water-fern	Blechnum wattsii
Tender brake	Pteris tremula
Austral bracken	Pteridium esculentum
Bat's-wing fern	Histiopteris incisa
Mother shield-fern	Polystichum proliferum

Fungi were perhaps the main source of interest at this season, and the damp weather seemed particularly appropriate. The damp leaf-litter and numerous old stumps and old fallen trees and branches provide plenty of suitable habitat for fungi and they were present in some numbers. There were many and varied small species, but not very many of the larger fungi. Largest were some enormous bracket fungi growing on the end of a fallen tree trunk. On the ground the luminous pleurotus was a welcome find, especially after seeing Jack's excellent photograph of it by its own luminescence the night before. Just before that, we had found its cousin the oyster mushroom, appparently an excellent species for eating.

Perhaps the most interesting of all was cordyceps, the vegetable caterpillar. We found two of these, growing like brown fingers, out of the leaf litter below the silver wattles. Jack dug up the larger of the two and revealed a whitish underground stem of some 20 cm, and at its end the dessicated remains of a 6 cm caterpillar.

Identifications of individual species of fungi are hard and the only names I can record are:-

Luminous fungus	Pleurotus nidiformis
Oyster mushroom	Pleurotus ostreatus
	Mycena sp.

cont.p.2.....

OUTING TO MOUNT WORTH,26 MAY 1990

LED BY JACK BROOKS cont.....

Ink cap	Coprinus sp.
Coral fungus	Clavicorona sp.
Jelly fungus	?
Horseshoe bracket fungus	Phellinus robustus

The fallen giant is an enormous mountain ash, that having already shed its crown, fell down about three years ago. The trunk fell down hill from the stump and then slid some 20 metres or more down the slope. The stump showed that it had benn only a shell around a hollow heart and the trunk showed an extremely twisted grain, which Jack suggests is why it was allowed to remain standing for so long (not fit for timber production).

We made our way back to the track by striking out through the bush, but Jack always seemed to know where we were. We then followed the track round through delightful fern glades to the magnificent "standing giant" the largest mountain ash in the park, finally completing the circuit of the track back to the car park for lunch.

I then had to return to Churchill, leaving the rest of the party to explore further in the afternoon, but I conclude by adding a list of all the plants I noted during the morning:-

Forest wire-grass	Tetrarrhena juncea
Tall sword-sedge	Lepidosperma elatius
Tall sedge	Carex appressa
Tree lomatia	Lomatia fraseri
Scrub nettle	Urtica incisa
Shade nettle	Australina muelleri
Drooping mistletoe	Amyema pendulum
Forest starwort	Stellaria flaccida
Forest clematis	Clematis glycinoides
Southern sassafras	Atherosperma moschatum
Austral mulberry	Hedycarya angustifolia
Danyalla	Pittosporum bicolor
Blackwood	Acacia melanoxylon
Silver wattle	Acacia dealbata
Stinkwood	Zieria dealbata
Bootlace bush	Pimelea axiflora
Mountain ash	Eucalyptus regnans
Forest hound's tongue	Cynoglossum latifolium
Forest nightshade	Solanum prinophyllum
Victorian Christmas bush	Prostanthera lasianthos
Prickly currant-bush	Coprosma quadrifida
White elderberry	Sambucus gaudichaudiana
Musk daisy-bush	Olearia argophylla
Snowy daisy-bush	Olearia lirata
Common cassinia	Cassinia aculeata
Blanket-leaf	Bedfordia arborescens

CONT.P.3....

OUTING TO MOUNT WORTH, 26 MAY 1990

LED BY JACK BROOKS cont....

I also noted a small number of bird species, but the conditions were far from ideal for bird-watching:-

Crimson rosella
King parrot
Welcome swallow
Eastern whip-bird
Superb fairy-wren
Lewin honey-eater
Australian magpie

Ken Harris

THE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

February Excursion

Our meeting place was near the Park Ranger's Office, just inside the Lakes National Park where three members of the Loch Sport FNC joined our group to act as guides. The Park Rangers were unable to guide us as planned as they'd used up all their time attending the recent oil spill in Bass Strait.

Fortunately I had been warned to bring mosquito repellant to Loch Sport, but I was not prepared for the hordes of mosquitoes which descended on me biting furiously before I had a chance to apply it!

We drove to the Lake Reeve Lookout Tower for our first stop, and followed a short walking track down to Lake Reeve. The National Parks leaflet "Lake Reeve Nature Walk" pointed out interesting features along the walking track. Not being accustomed to coastal vegetation, I tailed the "experts" in the group taking notes on the plants which were identified for me. I wouldn't have recognised Eucalyptus vimminalis, as it had rough bark growing all the way to the top and was a relatively short tree - unlike the tall, white trunked form I'm familiar with. It was appropriately called Rough Barked Manna Gum in this area. Flowering seaberry saltbush and the banksias (coast and saw) formed the bulk of the attractive understorey in the higher areas of our walk. As we descended to Lake Reeve, the swamp paper bark and coastal tea-tree were predominant and the track became quiet and sheltered, with moss underfoot. The swampy edges of the lake were covered in Salicornia and there was some birdlife on the lake (swans, pelicans and white faced herons). On the way back from the lake our "experts" were very interested to see droopind mistletoe growing in a black she-oak. I was shown how to extract nectar from the banksias by by banging the flower on the flat of my hand. I was amazed at the quantity that came out and how sweet it was, but I wasn't so impressed with the stickiness it left behind.

cont.p.4.....

THE LAKES NATIONAL PARK

February Excursion cont

After our walk we drove about 10 kilometres along a soft sandy track beside Lake Reeve which took us out to Sperm-whale Head. I immediately recognised the spot with its old spreading pine trees and abundant, friendly kangaroos, but it took me a while to get my bearings as we'd previously arrived at the spot by boat from Paynesville on our October excursion. It was strange to look across at my cousin's property, so close on the opposite shore, but to realize that it would be about 90 kilometres by road to drive there.

There were an enormous number and large variety of birds on a spit close to where we had our lunch and some people chose to observe these rather than go on our walk after lunch. It looked like a bird watchers' paradise, sitting comfortably on the beach with binoculars while hundreds of birds flew around or congregated on the spit. They included cormorants and little cormorants, both black and pied, pelicans, sacred ibis, caspian, crested and fairy terns, chestnut teal, coots, silver and pacific gulls, white faced heron, dotterals, black duck and black swans with cygnets including one with a family of five.

Armed with maps of the walking tracks the rest of the party set off to view the hills, swamps and bird hides in the Park. Due to some misleading arrows marked in the sand at the track junctions, some of us had a surprisingly short circular walk. Nevertheless, I found a wealth of unfamiliar plants to note down and was quite happy to join the bird watchers on the beach for our afternoon cuppa before we set off on the long drive home. As a memento of the trip I now have some pine seedlings which Chris Home grew from the pine nuts collected under the old pine trees at Spermwhale Head.

Wendy Savage

GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM EXCURSION - 28/7/1990

The excursion to see the Giant Gippsland Earthworm (Megas-colides australis) on 28th July took us across the rain-misted, greenrolling hills of South Gippsland to the small township of Loch, where 32 people assembled at the meeting place. Our leaders were Beverley van Praagh (who had given a talk about the worm at the L.V.Field Naturalist meeting on the previous night), her husband Colin and Peter Lilywhite. Peter and Beverley are engaged in a study of the earthworm, a project which is funded by a grant from World Wildlife Fund Australia to the Museum of Victoria.

It was decided to divide into groups of 8-10 people, with a leader assigned to each group, and either go directly to the study digging site on the Poowong Road, or partake for a while in studying the distribution of the worm.

cont.p.5....

GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM EXCURSION - 28/7/1990 ..cont

This involved some transference of people into other vehicles, and since most of us had come prepared with shovels, and armed against the inclement weather with sturdy clothing and gum-boots, I couldn't help thinking as we plodded about with our shovels, that the citizens of Loch may be wondering whether they had suddenly been invaded by a convention of grave-diggers! However, we were soon sorted out and heading off in various directions in search of the giant worm.

Our group travelled a short distance to Nyora, and turned down Paterson's Road. The object was for everyone with shovels to hop out and dig when we stopped at every half kilometre. This exercise was carried out with enthusiasm, despite the drizzling rain, for the length of Paterson's Road, but although some things of passing interest were brought to light (Such as a rather surprised skink, a yabbie hole or two and some very ordinary worms) no giant earthworms were discovered.

All the groups eventually converged at the study dig site on the bank of a creek near the road between Loch and Poowong, where picnic lunches were enjoyed. It was here that we also enjoyed the highlight of the day - that longed-for sighting of the famous Giant Earthworm.

During the morning three had been unearthed, also an egg capsule containing a young worm. Then a fourth worm was carefully dug out. We could see many worm holes opening from the trench that had been excavated. The study has shown that young worms are generally found slightly closer to the surface, followed by sub-adult worms and adults are found deeper (at an average depth of 47 cm). Observation also indicates that egg capsules are found down to a depth of 40 cm in a blind-ended tunnel that branches off another tunnel.

The largest of the four worms was an adult weighing 190 grams. It was 6.5 cm in circumference and 57 cm long, however once the worms are uncovered they tend to shrink very quickly. They also automize if damaged and do not regenerate. Indeed. the worm is very fragile and the majority of even slightly damaged worms usually shrivel up and begin decomposing within a few hours. This necessitates great care in digging them out.

It was a great pleasure to finally see the famous Megascolides australis, and the Club President Jane Purbrick expressed our gratitude and thanks to Bev, Peter and Colin for providing us with such an interesting day.

June Lubcke

GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM

On Saturday July 28 we went to see some Giant Gippsland Earthworms. They had one in a jar and they dug another one out of the ground. The worms felt soft and squishy. While we were there we saw a yellow robin, white plumed honeyeater and a brown thornbill.

Clare Savage

Report of the Business meeting of LVFNC Inc on 25/7/90

10 members present. One apology.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

October coastal excursion. Boat trip to Wilson's Promontary. If more than 20 people will need 2 boats. Cost: $15/head if good weather, $12/head if bad weather. Bus to Port Welshpool may be organised if enough people are interested.

Editor: Margaret Wentworth will start in September.

Polystyrene cups: W. Savage outlined reasons why these cups cause damage to the environment. Opinion to be sought on options at General Meeting.

Clark's Road pine trees have been removed.

Club projector. Donated by J.Wall a long time ago. Where is it?

Finance:		
	Cheque account	$1313.43
	Investment account	$2247.63
	Conservation account	$ 662.32

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Received summary of forest management issues raised by the public re the Central Forest Management Plan.
Submissions: Jack Smith Lake State Game Reserve management plan.
Lake Wellington Wetlands management plan.
Prepared statement of photographs for deputation to Minister for DCE. Visited Mr Hamilton and have received correspondence that he has made representation to the Minister. Now awaiting further information re date.
Received "Review of Victorian Eel Fishery". Comments requested.
Eight LVFNC members with Sale FNC members and DCE officer attended working bee to erect signs and clean area at Dawson Reserve on Sunday July 14.
Notice of visit by Andrew Tytherleigh on Thursday 26 to take us to site of weed control project.
Received request from DCE Maffra for information re our bird list for Dawson Reserve and also roadside vegetation map for Shire of Traralgon or elsewhere.
Telephone call from Carol Bullimore of Trafalgar Water Trust Management Committee re bird list for that area.
J.Blucher attended Forest Planning Meeting on 26 June - Time-table for "plan" set out. First Sector, Recreation and Tourism discussed. Committee members went on Field Tour of Thompson Valley on 18 June.

Next meeting: Wednesday August 22 1990 at 7.30pm YMCA Morwell.

NEW EDITOR

Thanks to Margaret Wentworth for accepting the position of Editor of the "Naturalist" .

Pam Petschack will be doing the September edition so please send any material to her and not to Margaret until the end of September.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

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Traralgon 3844

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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting:	Friday, September 28 at 7.30 pm.
Speaker:	A. Ewen and R. Court. Native Flowers and Insects in 3-D.
Excursion:	Saturday, September 29. Excursion to Crinigan Road Reserve. Meet at the car park in N-E corner at 10 am.
Excursion:	October 13 with Bairnsdale FNC to Avon-Mount Hedrick Scenic Reserve. See details on page 5.
Excursion:	October 27. Boat trip to Wilsons Promontary. (Be prepared to wade ashore in shallow water). See details on page 5.

Bird Group:

Meeting:	Monday, October 1.
Meeting place:	10 am Trafalgar Railway Station car park for excursion to Water Catchment area.

Warragul FNC — Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

October 20 NB. A SATURDAY - Visit to Churchill/Lysterfield Lake National Park.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.

Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Migrant Resource Centre, 92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

President's Report for 1989/1990

This year has seen a fairly marked change of emphasis in the Friends' activities. We have spent the majority of our meetings this year working hard in the Park weeding, clearing rubbish, seed-collecting, culminating this winter in a frenzy of tree-planting. We can now look forward to gradually seeing the results of our work come to fruition as our newly planted trees begin to take over some of the barer areas of Billies Creek. Not that we can rest on our laurels. What we have achieved so far, good as it is, is only a small beginning and we have plenty more of the same to keep us occupied for a long time to come.

The year started in the heat of the controversy over the access to Billies Creek, and I am pleased to report that, although not yet fully resolved, the situation has been considerably eased by the departure from the area of the most outspoken opponent of road access to the area. My understanding at present is that Department of Conservation and Environment (DCE) have been attempting to negotiate purchase of the most suitable block for road access and our major remaining concern must be whether the necessary money will be found. It would be a sad end to the story, if the block were available for purchase and the chance was lost through lack of funds.

All through this year, we have been eagerly awaiting the draft management plan for the Park, which we understand has been mainly held up by the problems which arose over the road access. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Deborah Burke here today with a first draft of the management plan for us to look at.

Membership of the Friends remains fairly stable, but it is noticeable that numbers at activities vary considerably. Tree-planting is a great deal more popular than weeding! All these activities help to enhance the natural beauties of our Park and we need all the help we can get.

Among our activities this year, we have continued to interchange with other Friends groups. On 20th August, a small group of us visited the Friends of Coolart on the Mornington Peninsula. If you think weeds are a problem in our Park, you should take a look at the infestations of smilax and dolichos that are choking the native flora in that area. We were very impressed with the public access bird-hides provided at the edges of the wetlands, providing excellent views of the sacred ibis nesting colony and many other water-birds.

Our annual koala and orchid surveys were duly completed. Mostly, koala counts were low, but we had one record count from the stringybark ridge walk. This resulted from involving a party of schoolchildren who chanced to be in the Park that day. The children participated eagerly, competing with each other to spot the next koala. This resulted in a far more thorough search than we usually manage (all sightings were confirmed by Friends). We hope to learn from this experience

cont.p.2.....

Friends of Morwell National Park - President's Report 1989/90

...cont.

and organise similar teams of koala counters for future counts.

The orchid survey was disappointing, a very dry season resulted in a decrease in both the number of surviving plants on the plots, but also in the numbers of flowers on individual plants. To counter this however, I subsequently located more seed pods, about twelve in all, including for the first time two seed pods on plants in our plots. We must hope that this will lead to better things in future surveys.

This spring, seed collected by us in January 1989 was germinated and grown at Won Wron Prison Farm and some 1500 seedlings were subsequently delivered to the Park. Getting all these planted in one winter is proving a major undertaking, but by including a few extra work days and by working all day instead of just the afternoons, we have broken the back of the planting, with close to 1000 trees and shrubs now planted. Thank you to all who helped.

Recent tree plantings were well advertised in the local paper and several new faces turned up to these plantings and we hope to welcome many of them as new members.

Weeding as I said is less popular, but we have made real progress with one large patch of purple-top verbena and have recently planted 380 trees and shrubs over the area previously covered with verbena.

Several of our members once again assisted at the Yinnar South Fair and following the fair, we successfully applied to the fair committee for a grant for the purchase of traps for the Ranger to attempt to reduce the fox population. We were granted $400 and Rob has been able to purchase the traps he requires.

We have now also spent most of the money we obtained as a grant for construction of an information shelter in Billies Creek and Rob now has the materials for the shelter stored, for use once access to the area becomes a reality.

Apart from our own activities, there has been some encouraging interest shown in the Park from other quarters. A teacher from Yinnar Primary School attempted to get a grant for a plan to involve children from the school in a series of activities in the Park, including seed-collecting, growing and finally planting of trees. He was unsuccessful with the grant application, but apparently still intends to continue on a reduced scale.

In addition, a group of three environmental students from Monash University, who are undertaking a study into weed control in South Gippsland, have set up some vegetation monitoring plots in recently sprayed blackberry patches in the Billies Creek area and have asked for our help in the continuous monitoring of these plots over some years. In addition, one of the three students has started a project to investigate a procedure for regeneration of trees in Billies Creek by direct sowing of seed. She will conduct trials this spring in two areas. She will sow blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)and varnished wattle (*Acacia verniciflua*)on the steep

cont.p.3.....

Friends of Morwell National Park--President's Report 1989/90 ...cont.

bare hillside in the heart of the area and for comparison will sow blue gum and silver wattle (Acacia dealbata) in the cleared area between the Park proper and Junction Road. We have provided seed collected in the Park for this venture and will watch the results of both projects with interest.

We have now had a year of working with our new Ranger, Rob Howell, and I should like to conclude by thanking Rob for all his assistance during the year. He has shown great enthusiasm for the potential of the Park from the start and has worked closely and co-operatively with the Friends in every regard. We are fortunate to have Rob as Ranger and look forward to working with him a great deal in the years ahead.

Ken Harris.

GRANT TO PRESERVE NATIVE GRASSLANDS

Significant remnants of Gippsland Plains woodland forest and native grasslands at the disused Dawson Railway Reserve between Cowwarr and Heyfield will be protected.

The Department of Conservation and Environment has given a Flora and Fauna Guarantee Incentive Scheme grant of $1810 towards the project.

The funds have been granted to the Sale and District Field Naturalists Club who, in association with the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club and the Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria, identified the need to protect the plant communities.

More then 100 species of native plants and 30 species of native birds havebeen noted in the reserve. Many of these plants have restricted ranges because of clearing for agriculture and the reserve is important to protect their habitat from unauthorised grazing, wood cutting, fires, camping and dumping of rubbish.

Signs which inform visitors of the reserve were erected by local field naturalists in conjunction with the DCE and V/Line.

The longer term management of the Dawson Reserve will be the subject of further discussions between all interested parties.

Article from the Latrobe Valley Express, 24/7/90

CLUB TAPES - URGENT!

The Club had 6 tapes and now Jane Purbrick has none and in July we had to use one of Jim Wall's personal tapes to record the talk, so now there are 7 tapes with the members.
Could members who have borrowed these tapes to write up talks please FINISH their write-ups and return the tapes to Jane by the next meeting.
THE MATTER IS URGENT!

FROM THE BURNIE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

I am writing to you as some members of the Burnie Field Naturalist Club have discovered a wonderful tour. It was so excellent we felt that other Clubs may want to know about it and arrange a tour for themselves. The Proprietor of the Tour Company, "Nature Quest" of Dunedin, does not know that I am writing this letter. It is written as I have stated, so that your Club members may organise their own tour.

The Club about two years ago received a brochure from Mark Hangar of "Nature Quest" in the mail and we responded, not knowing anything about the company.The organising proved easy; we sent Mark details of what we would like to do generally, and then waited for his suggestions and the tour was arranged.

Mark is a young man, qualified B.Sc.(Hons) Botany from the Otago University. He then spent a year of research with the N.Z. Forest Service. This was followed by six years with the National Parks and Reserves Service. He was then a co-founder of Southern Heritage which conducted ornithological and flora trips through both islands of New Zealand. For over two years now he has conducted his own tours, and people come from Europe, Japan and America to tour with him. He is also a keen conservationist and is a council member of the Forest and Bird Conservation Society of New Zealand. But these qualifications are not his only ones, for he quickly assessed the capabilities and interest of each member of the group, was considerate, always last back and made sure everyone was O.K. Nothing seemed too much for him.

I am enclosing a copy of my account, written for the Burnie Field Naturalist Club Newsletter which will give a brief account of this excellent trip which was very good value for our money. (Editor's note: this account is available from the Secretary of LVFNC.)

Mark conducts standard tours, using standard type motel accommodation with private facilities and meals included. But if a group book, then they can choose their type of accommodation required,whether they want to cook their own meals or not, the number of days they want to spent on the tour etc. He has brochures available and as I will tell him that I have written to your Club, I am sure you will receive one in the near future.

I personally, and those who travelled with the group cannot recommend "Nature Quest" to you with a more sincere recommendation. It was great!

Mary Hawkes,
Tour Organiser for BFNC.

"Nature Quest" PO Box 6314, Dunedin, New Zealand.

BAIRNSDALE FNC - NEW MEETING PLACE

Bairnsdale FNC now meets at the same time, 8.00pm, on the third Friday of the month at the Bairnsdale Library Community Room instead of the CWA Hall.

MARTINS AND THE ASH HEAP

A note on Tree Martins picking up ash or embers in the January issue, called to mind the Fairy Martins or Bottle Swallows that maintained a colony of their bottle nests under the culvert at the farm gate.

The ash from our slow combustion stove was thrown in a heap at the bottom of the garden. The Fairy Martins ran a shuttle service between the ash heap and the culvert, carting away we knew not what, and incorporating it in their mud nests. Some nests seemed to be reused each year until they became too decrepit and a new house was necessary. Some enterprising Birdo has calculated that a nest may be constructed of about 1300 pellets of mud, each representing a beakful.

The birds are considered to be migratory and each year they appear again to begin housekeeping under the various bridges, culverts and overhangs in gravel pits. Where suitable accommodation is scarce I have seen clusters of the nests on the sheltered side of a leaning gum tree.

Tree Martins are also present here but not, I think, as common as their cousins. Perhaps culverts and clay pits are more plentiful than are trees with suitable hollows for the communal Tree Martins.

Ellen Lyndon.

OCTOBER COASTAL EXCURSION - BOAT TRIP TO WILSONS PROMONTARY

Date of excursion - 27th October, 1990

Tiger Tours Minibus leaving Moe Railway Station at 8.00am.
Morwell at the Jane Street Bridge on old Princes Highway on Traralgon side of bridge at 8.15am.
Traralgon outside Central Gippsland Hospital at 8.30am.
Takes about one hour to Port Welshpool from Traralgon.
Boats leaving Port Welshpool at 10.00am. We will leave to return about 3.30pm.

Bus cost $10. All money must be paid on and by the September meeting.
Boat cost maximum $15-could be $12 if weather unsuitable.
This money to be paid at the end of the trip on the boat.

EXCURSION OCTOBER 13, 1990 WITH BAIRNSDALE FNC.

This excursion is now to the Avon-Mt. Hedrick Scenic area.
We will meet at the car park at the end of Kentucky Road 19 km from Maffra at 10.00am.
Our interests will be botanical and birds.
A map of the area may be obtained from local offices of the Department of Conservation and Environment.

NEW EDITOR STARTS

Margaret Wentworth will commence as editor of the"Naturalist" with the October edition. Her address is on the back page. Material is URGENTLY needed. At present there is nothing for the next edition so please contribute.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC Inc. ON 22/8/90

Six members present. Five apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Polystyrene cups. Will try washing up Centre cups from August GM until AGM and re-assess.
2. Atlas of Victorian Wildlife, Database. Ken Harris may look after it if it's not too much work.
3. GWC-J.Blucher report (from Corresp) on GWC's Draft Submission to LV Review Panel.

Motion:"That the LVFNC Inc do not have any further official contact with the Gippsland Water Coalition at this time."
J.Blucher/O.Thompson.Carried.

Finance:

Cheque account	$1281.88
Investment account	$2247.63
Conservation account	$662.32

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1. Deputation to Minister of Conservation and Environment to take place at 3pm on 31 August at Parliament House. Attending: D.McCarthy APM, J.Grimes LRC, O & B Thompson LVFNC, with Val Callister LRC to lead the deputation.
2. News from Sale FNC re Dawson enclosing cutting from Sale newspaper re working bee.
3. Call from Mrs Bennetts,Tynong. Recommended to us by DCE. She wanted to find orchids in Gormandale district in September. Suggested Onley's Road, Rubbish Tip Reserve, Bye's Road and Cemetry Road. Also included telephone number for Sale depot ranger of Holey Plains.
4. Provided information for Express article "The 1080 Debate" as Frank Noble,DCE, suggested Express contact us for submission on Strzeleckis.
5. Received call from Sue Mulvaney, who had already written to Express, on 1080.Mr Noble had suggested she contact me for overall picture of project.
6. Supplied on request maps of significant roadside areas in Traralgon Shire to Jodie Hoey, DCE Maffra, and also bird list of Dawson area from June Lubcke.
7. Received telephone call from DCE Yarram thanking us for bird list for Jack Smith's Lake area we supplied with submission on proposed management plan for area. We had four birds on our list not recorded on DCE list.
8. June Lubcke has received request from Jodie Hoey for the Club to compile bird list for Mount Hedrick Scenic Reserve within next two years.
9. Supplied list of native plants in Traralgon South area not included on DCE records.

Next meeting: Wednesday,September 26,1990 at 7.30pm YMCA, Morwell. All members welcome.

Supper roster: Friday,September 28 B.Nielsen and I.Peterson.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

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RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

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Traralgon 3844

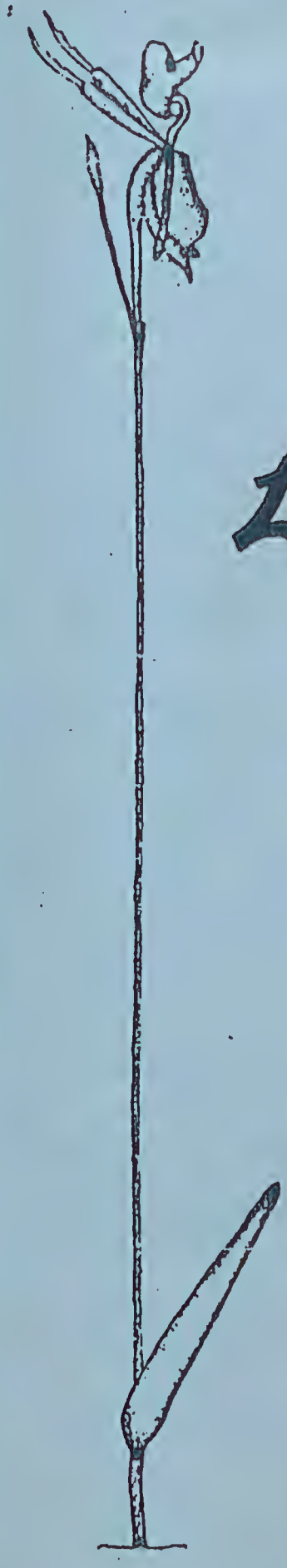
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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC Inc.

Meeting: Friday, October 26 at 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Damien Moloney. Coastal Heathlands.

Excursion: Saturday 27 October.
Costal Excursion. Boat trip to Wilsons Promontary.

Excursion: Saturday 10th. November, 1990.
Bus trip to Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
(See page 5 for details).

Bird Group:

Meeting: Monday, November 5th.

Meeting Place: 10 a.m. at Trafalgar Railway Station
Car Park for excursion to Mosquito Creek Catchment Area.

Warragul FNC: Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

November 18th: Koala Survey & Butterfly orchid survey.
Meet in Fosters Gully.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

JESSICA'S DAY AT MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK - MAY 26TH 1990

Our first outing with the Field Naturalist's was a very rewarding day in more ways than one. Through the eyes of my daughter Jessica age 6 years, everything was new and exciting and had to be explored. Bouncing full of energy she started off with the group as we walked to visit the 'Sleeping Giant'. The main interest was of course fungi and to Jessica every single one was special and worth investigating. There was such a variety that everywhere we looked there was a different type. Given the task of collecting as many different fungi as possible, Jessica was soon hard at work. The 'Sleeping Giant' was impressive even in its fallen state and the hike up to the base of the tree was full of slipping and sliding. To Jessica it was a great adventure and with the aid of a trusty black boy walking stick she was hauled and pushed to the top. Once down the other side it was of a more sedate pace that we walked along the track to complete the circuit. Our bag was full of different fungi and many other treasures picked up along the way.

After lunch we set out again to walk along the track for disabled people. This once again yielded many wonderful fungi and lovely straight gums that made you feel dizzy to look up at as they were so tall. Jessica enjoyed this walk, the squeals of delight became louder as the mud became thicker, her shoes heavier and also her clothes muddier! Jessica was entranced with the lovely blue pixie's parasols as I was too, and the fluted edges of the fungi that grew up the sides of the trees. The colours, textures, the sounds and the occasional suggestion of fairies, pixies and gumnut babies enchanted Jessica all day. Exhausted and a bit dirty, my daughter fell asleep on the way home asking could we go back tonight to see the wombats!

It was a lovely day. Many thanks to Jack and Nancy for their knowledge on fungi and the warmth of the people who helped to make it a special day.

Jessica's Mum
(Anne Bailey)

IT'S WATTLE TIME AGAIN

The Silver Wattles along the watercourses have been a picture this season. Adam Lindsay Gordon would have loved them. Bands of pure gold lined the Thorpdale Road almost from Mirboo North right out to the corner of the Mountain Hut Road.

With so much of our shady forest being mutilated for housing development these streamside ribbons are doubly precious, all honor to the landholders who have spared them.

The water-catchment bush, too, affords glimpses of golden globes lighting the dark green of the woodlands. The Mountain Hut corner used to be equally magnificent, but, alas, its gully flora is long since drowned. Surely nothing is more "chilling or lonesome or drear" than a drowned forest of dead sticks in place of a wonderful fern gully.

Ellen Lyndon.

EXCURSION TO CRINIGAN ROAD RESERVE 29/9/90

Seventeen people assembled at the car park at Crinigan Road Reserve, Morwell, on Saturday 29th September, for an excursion into the reserve. The leader was Eric Lubcke who is the L.V. Field Naturalist Club representative on the Board of Management of the Crinigan Road Reserve.

Eric warned us that we would not be seeing as many flowers in bloom on this occasion as we had seen on a previous excursion into the reserve, but whetted our appetites by telling us that he had noted two different species of orchids growing side by side in the fork of a tree that we would be passing. He refused to give us any further clues, so when we had divided into two groups which were to meet later where two separate tracks converged, we set off in something of the spirit of a treasure hunt.

The "tree-trunk" orchids were soon discovered by Arthur Ewin, thanks no doubt to his keen photographer's eye. Arthur and his friend Ron Court had entertained us at the Club meeting on the previous night with their magnificent three-dimensional slides, many of which were of orchids. Arthur and other Club photographers will be keeping an eye on that tree-trunk for the next few weeks for it should make an interesting picture when the Sun Orchid (possibly Thelymitra ixiodes) comes into bloom. The other orchid, a Helmet, would have finished blooming for this season. It could be either they Slaty Helmet Orchid (Corybas diemenicus) or the Veined Helmet (C. dilatus) for both species grow in that area.

Ten different species of orchids were found in bloom - the Alpine Greenhood (Pterostylis alpina), Trim G. (P. concinna), Blunt G. (P. curta), Tall G. (P. longifolia), Nodding G. (P. nutans), Maroonhood (P. pedunculata), Mayfly Orchid (Acianthus caudatus), Pink Fingers (Caladenia carnea), Common Bird Orchid (Chiloglottis gunnii) and the Waxlip Orchid (Glossodia major). Leaves of several other orchid species were seen.

Twining plants made a splash of colour, particularly the Love Creeper (Comesperma volubile) and Hardenbergia violacea. Not so showy but still very dainty was the Common Appleberry (Billardiera scandens) and finally, one lovely specimen of Twining Glycine (Glycine clandestine). A contrast of colour was provided by lots of Showy Bossiaea (Bossiaea cinerea), and Early Nancys (Anguillaris dioica) kept reminding us that spring indeed is here.

Unfortunately Boneseed is also still making a most unwelcome appearance despite the fact that we pull out every plant that we see. It seems to be turning up in more scattered areas that the few isolated ones of yore, so could become a problem.

Although we listed only 16 species of birds for the morning, two of these - the Fantailed Cuckoo and the Shining Bronze-cuckoo - were additions to our Club list for the reserve.

cont.p.3....

EXCURSION TO CRINIGAN ROAD RESERVE 29/9/90...CONT.

A hearty barbecue luncheion was enjoyed back at the car park (also, need it be said, much conversation) and Vice-President Philip Rayment thanked our leader for a very pleasant excursion.

June Lubcke.

NOCTURNAL NORTHERN KOOKABURRAS

From the 25th. June to the 2nd. July this year we were camped at the caravan park at Greenvale, a nickel mining township 200 kms. north of Charters Towers, Queensland. Shortly before nightfall each day we would hear the "gargling cackling scream" of Blue-winged Kookaburras and see them in the eucalypts near the caravan park. Only one floodlight shone in this caravan park each night and each night as soon as the light was on four Blue-winged Kookaburras perched themselves on nearby stumps and trees. From these perches they appeared to spend the night swooping to collect moths and insects attracted to the light. We did not stay up all night to watch but checked on them at different hours during seven successive nights. On the eighth night not a bird appeared!

Os. & Eulie Brewster.

A BIRD NOTE

Visiting a friend's farm recently I was surprised on looking out over the pretty garden, to see a strange parrot of delicate hues feeding at the seed tray in company with Eastern Rosellas. It is a Mallee Ringneck which seems quite at home and has lived round the garden for some considerable time.

Delighted with their unusual visitor and the local interest shown in it the owners thought that it might be nice to have more of the same. They built and furnished a roomy aviary and acquired a cage-bred hen of the same persuasion. It was just a matter of patience to entice the wild male inside.

For a while all lived happily enough but then the bride languished and died. The original bird was released to join the wild Rosellas again as an ornament to the garden. "It's a wonder it doesn't mate with a Rosella" I said, thinking the problem over. "Oh!" cried my hosts, "it has indeed". It seems that they nested in a hollow tree, of which there are plenty around, the hen laid four eggs and successfully hatched them. "And the young ones?" "Well, they just died."

This must be an unusual observation. Has anyone else heard of or had a similar experience?

Ellen Lyndon.

GEELONG F.N. CLUB - CAPE YORK SAFARI AUG/SEPT 1991

Members of various F.N.C's showed interest in joining Geelong members for a 1990 Safari. Satisfactory arrangements could not be made for 1990 but arrangements are now being finalized for a 1991 GFNC safari with Allen Malder who specializes in Cape York natural history. Because the interest shown indicated a second bus would be needed we are planning as follows BUT PLEASE NOTE Safari "S" will not proceed unless sufficient bookings are received by 30th. Nov.

Safari "N" - A group of 14 people depart Cairns Day 1 - about 18th Aug. by 4wd bus on a north bound safari camping at approx. 12 sites with 3 or 4 days at each of Iron Range, Shelbourne Bay, Jardine River and returning to Cairns during the afternoon of Day 21 by aeroplane from Bamaga.

Safari "S" - Another group of 14 people depart Cairns by aeroplane during morning of Day 21 for Bamaga and return to Cairns by 4wd bus on a south bound safari camping at approx. 12 sites with 3 or 4 days at each of Jardine River, Shelbourne Bay, Iron Range arriving Cairns Day 42.

Costs - Safari approx. $1850/person including cruise to Thursday Island and flight Cairns-Bamaga or Bamaga-Cairns. Melb./Cairns at present we are being quoted $533 return for a group booking of 10. Some people do intend to use own cars.

Safari Information - Bush camping, portable toilet, 9'x7' tents with flys, air beds, canvas chairs with backs, supply vehicle, 4 staff, no air conditioning, no piped music, no camp duties, BYO sleeping bag and eating utensils. Cereal and cooked items for breakfast. Salad for lunch. 3 course meal for dinner.

Bookings - Please send $400 deposit and stamped addressed envelope to Geelong F.N.C. Inc., P.O. Box 1047 Geelong, 3220 by 30th. Nov. Mark envelope and pay cheque to Geelong FNC Cape York Safari. This amount will be refunded to those scheduled on "Safari S" if insufficient bookings are received. Telephone enquiries to Dick Southcombe 052 433916.

THANKS TO PAM PETSCHACK - THE RETIRING EDITOR

After three years of painstaking and efficient work Pam Petschack has retired as editor of the 'Naturalist'. We extend to Pam our grateful thanks for her work during those three years and for doing the extra things that made for the magazine always coming out on time such as learning to use the duplicating machine when Andy was away. Enjoy your retirement Pam and once again many thanks.

Barbara Nielsen.

EXTRA EXCURSION IN NOVEMBER

On the 10th. November, 1990 we have organized a bus trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. A bus will be leaving outside the Central Gippsland Hospital, Traralgon on the south side of the Princes Highway, at 8 a.m., Morwell on the east side of the Jane Street railway bridge at 8.15 a.m. and Moe Railway Station at 8.30 a.m. to go to Melbourne and be returning from the Anderson Street gate of the Botanic Gardens at 3.30 p.m. At present the bus is booked out but I am taking names for a waiting list until the October meeting. The cost of the bus will be $11 each for adults, to be paid at the October meeting to the Treasurer, Mrs. Nora O'Reilly. There will be guides to take us on a guided tour of the Gardens and time to wander around by ourselves. Members are expected to be at the Anderson Street gate of the Gardens for the return journey at 3.15 p.m. You will need to take a lunch or be prepared to buy something at the kiosk in the Gardens.

Barbara Nielsen.

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CAMP JANUARY 25th-28th 1991

The 1991 Australia Day Weekend Camp will be at Karoonda Park, Gelantipy from Friday night or Saturday 25th. or 26th. January 1991 to Monday 28th. January 1991. There are 7 self contained cottages, 4 of which can take up to 12 people and 3 up to 6 people. The cost is $45 per cottage per night. Pillows, blankets or doonas are supplied and basically all you will need to take is food, sheets or doona covers, pillowslips, towels and tea towels. Everything else is provided. A list will be tabled at the October meeting and again at the November meeting for members to put their names down. On the Sunday night we will be having a catered for meal at $14 per head which is optional but you are encouraged to attend. The Bairnsdale Field Naturalists' Club are organizing this weekend.

Barbara Nielsen.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC Inc. 26/9/90

Ten members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):
1. Atlas of Victorian Wildlife, Database. Ken Harris will look after it.
2. Eleisha Birkin and Helen Taylor are expected to give 5 min. talk at GM to ask for suggestions or input on Wetlands (Jack Smith Lake).
3. Deputation to Minister of Conservation and Enviroment on 31st August at Parliament House. All parties stated their case and were received with interest.
4. Tarra-Bulga Visitors Centre Opening. Report (Phil Rayment). Grant for walking track to link both Areas announced. Launch of Tarra-Bulga National Park Management Plan.

Finance:

Cheque Account	$1260.88
Investment Account	$2247.63
Conservation Account	$662.32

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1. Attended Open Cut Rehabilitation Meeting at Loy Yang, Field Inspection.
2. Attended FMAAC (Forest Management Area Advisory Committee meeting - discussed 5 more topics.
3. Submission in response to 'Towards a National Greenhouse Strategy'.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 26th. October, 1-90 at 7.30 p.m. YMCA, Morwell.

Supper Roster: Friday 26th. October M.Vinnell & B.Roberts.

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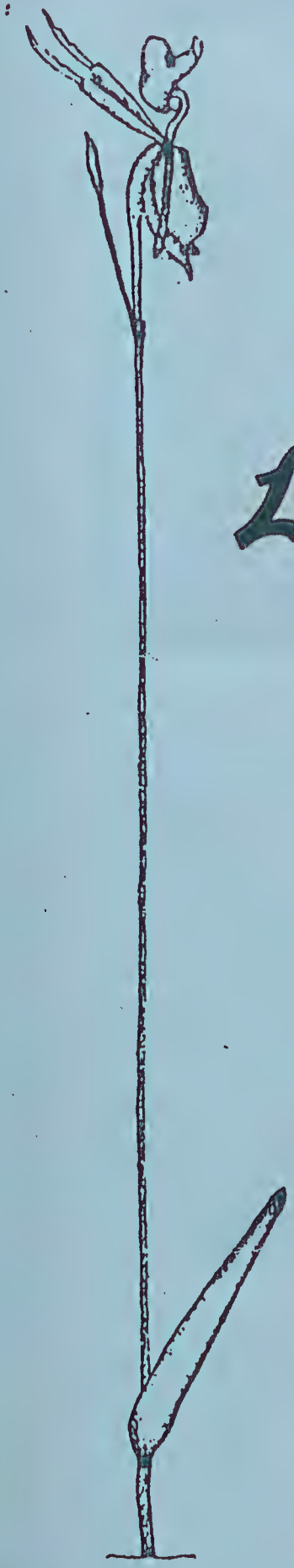
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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC INC.

Meeting: Friday 23rd. November, 1990 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Reg Johnson : "Flowers, Feathers and Fun".

Excursion: Saturday 24th. November, 1990. Covarr/Toongabbie. Meet 10 am at Oasis Cafe, Toongabbie.

Excursion: January Campout -- Camp Gelantipy. (See pages 5 & 6 for details).

Christmas Breakup: Saturday 8th. December, 1990 at Andy Ringin's property at Coalville.

NB: Working bee on the prior Saturday 1st. December, 1990 at Andy's. Bring your favourite gardening tool.

BIRD GROUP:

Meeting: Monday 3rd. December, 1990.

Meeting Place: 10 am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Yallourn North Road for excursion to Wirilda.

WARRAGUL FNC: Contact Secretary for details.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

Contact Secretary for details - 92 4547.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone (056) 23 1563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Migrant Resource Centre, 92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

A TAGALONG TOUR

On a recent tour with BOCA, known as a "Tagalong Tour" we travelled over 7,000 kms. as far north as Longreach, stopping off at various National Parks and cattle stations on the way. There is much to tell of the various areas, but I will take space only to tell of some of the exciting birds we saw.

Our first stop was at Munghorn Gap National Park in Mudgee area N.S.W; there we saw the Origma or Rock Warbler. This was a first for many our 24 members. Only known to be in a very small area of Australia we were fortunate to sight it as the weather was appalling at that time. Next stop was at Travanna, a large sheep and cattle station in the Inverell area and owned by Jack and Nancy Tighe, a member of BOCA. We were led out to various habitats from there, including a large dam which yielded many waders and raptors including the majestic Sea Eagle. Further out in the dry country our count was prestigous with the lovely Tourquoise Parrot, Diamond Firetail, Crested Shrike-tit, Southern White Face, Fuscous Honeyeater being some of my favourites, Varied Sittella plentiful. Seventy five species were listed.

Girraween Nat. Park, a lovely place but only forty two species were listed there. A first for me was the Striped Honeyeater.

Carnarvon Gorge Nat. Park was our next base where 80 species were listed, among which was a pair of Barking Owls, discovered by Bill. They are handsome creatures and were in a little palm forest. The Red Winged Parrot and the Red Backed Wren were there also.

Barcaldine was next and there we listed 92 species and first sightings for me were, Black Honeyeater, White Winged Wren and Splendid Wren. Nesting were Scarlet Robins, White Throated Warbler (Gerygone), Tawny Frogmouth and Black Honey Eater. We were hosted by Jenny and Ranal Chandler and had five wonderful days with them. (BOCA members).

Booringa Down, another large cattle and sheep station in Mitchell area owned by Dawn and Bill Han was our next base and 112 species were listed for the area and included Red Capped Robins, Crested Bellbirds, Spotted Bower Bird, Plum Headed Finch and Australian Bustard. Dawn ins a BOCA member and was tireless in her efforts to keep us well occupied. Bill and I broke off at that stage and some of the party went on to Roto. I am very well satisfied to have seen birds that I really did not expect that I would ever see.

Norma Smith.

THE WAY OF A WEEBILL

I'm ashamed to admit it but for years I've wanted to see a Weebill in the wild. Undoubtedly I've been mistaking them for thornbills. I know they are common here but do not appear on any our bird lists.

.../2

They way of the Weebill....cont.

Joan Vincent has identified their calls. I know too that they nest here for the Readers Digest Bird Book shows me the very nest that I wondered about years ago and dismissed as that of a thornbill.

One afternoon as I sat out in a patch of rare but welcome sunshine a small bird restled among the leaves over my head. I watched it idly, we have a variety of small birds in town gardens. The bird suddenly surfaced right at the end of a twig and looked down at me with one eye and then with the other. Dull olive-green back, paler below, faint eyebrow and Heavens! that blunt thick bill! A Weebill at last!

While we stared at each other, fascinated, the Weebill put in the finishing touch and gave vent to that peculiar dry zizzing call that only a Weebill can make.

It rattled at me and made my day.

Ellen Lyndon.

GIANT GIPPSLAND EARTHWORM

BEVERLEY VAN PRAAGH

It was with great interest I went along to hear Beverley Van Praagh reveal the mysteries of Megascolides Australis, the worlds largest known species of earth worm and largest invertebrate.

The giant Gippsland earthworm was first discovered in the Brandy Creek area by rail workers in 1878. Much argument ensued as to whether it was a worm or a snake. Professor F. McCoy (University of Melbourne) described and confirmed the species as a worm. Professor Baldwin Spencer published a detailed anatomical account in 1888 and this has remained the most comprehensive and authoritative study.

The worm had a high public profile, if not an undearing one. Beverley showed us a graphic slide taken from a newspaper report some years ago, describing how a 13 foot worm had wriggled (or perhaps wormed!) through a babies nose, out through its mouth, strangling it. The mother meanwhile trying unsuccessfully to kill the worm! A more friendly attitude probably prevails these days with an Aboriginal word "Karmai" being adopted for an annual festival held in Korumburra.

The worms are not an easy subject to study. Being a subsoil species they are not found on the surface, their size makes them difficult to remove from the ground, they are very fragile and have the ability to autotomize. If the posterior of the worm is exposed first, it tends to break itself up, often dying subsequently. Stress and bruising will also kill them. Conventional worm sampling techniques using electrical shocks in the ground or pouring formalin over an area to bring the worms to the surface are unsuitable.

.../3

Giant Gippsland Earthworm...cont.

Digging has so far proved to be the most suitable if not the easiest method. Beverley's site near Loch consists of a trench a metre deep and several metres long. Clues of a worm's presence are a wet tunnel or a gurgling sound. It may take an hour or more to dig one out. They have a tenacious hold and of course cannot be pulled out. When extricated they are assess for weight, length, circumference, age and reproductive status.

Size - this alone has made M.australis famous. The length varies considerably due to the worms ability to expand and contract. Beverley's studies show an average length of 80 cm x 2 cm circumference, with an 80 cm worm reading 1.5 m when relaxed. Fresh weight is a more accurate measure of size. Adults weigh from 210 to 400 grams. There are other species of giant earth worms found in Sri Lanka, North and South America, South Africa, Southern France, Northern New South Wales, and Southern Queensland, but there is little information about these. There are also worms about one foot in length found in the Dandenongs and Erinundra Plateau.

Biology - little is known. Prominent, light coloured bands found in the clitellum are used as a basis for classifying into three developmental sizes (presumably age classes):

1. Young - no external banding, average weight 28 grams.
2. Sub adult - 1 - 2 bands, average weight 69gm.
3. Adult - 3 bands on segments 17, 18, 19 and occasionally more, the significance of this being unknown to date. Average weight 210gm. 50% of the worms found are in the adult class. It probably takes about three years to reach the adult stage and as these make up the largest number they probably live for a long time.

The worms haemoglobin has a high affinity to oxygen. In captivity 15 have hatched but not thrived. Beverley has had two adults for one year so far.

Reproductive Biology - is largely unknown. They are hermaphroditic, but two are needed for fertilization to occur. The sexual organs are contained within the clitellum, which extends from segments 13 to 21. (This is one way of distinguishing between native and European worms. In Europeans the clitellum is found 1/3 to 1/2 way down the body, not close to the head as in our native worms). Breeding is evidenced by a swollen clitellum, mainly occuring from September to December, but not in every year.

Egg Capsules - a large, conspicuous, amber coloured egg capsule is laid in a blind-ended tunnel coming off a main tunnel, at an average depth of 23cm but down to 40cm. The capsules weigh from 7.6 - 12.6 gm, average 9gm, is 4 - 7cm long x 1 - 1.5cm wide and contains a single embryo surrounded by a milky fluid. Incubation appears to be at least 12 months (in other earth worms it is a few weeks). Capsules are found over most of the year, with hatching occuring from August to January. The capsule splits at the stalk end up to one week before the worm emerges. It has a very muscular head which enables it to burrow straight away. Hatchlings are 18 - 28cm long with an average weight of 9gm.

.../4

Giant Gippsland Earthworm...cont.

Diet and Casts - Root hairs, root particles, grass blades, leaves of dicotyledonous plants, seeds and organic and mineral matter are found in the casts. The cast material is deposited below ground and back fills some of the tunnels. It is not known if the worms eat the casts when moving through the tunnels or leave them blocked.

Surfacing - The worms are found close to the surface in winter but retreat to depths of 1.5m in summer when the soil drys out. The young worms are found closer to the surface, followed by sub adults and adults. They may surface if their tunnels are flooded. They have great di-ficulty moving on the surface and fall prey to kookaburras. The tunnels are very long with many twists and are probably permanent.

Sounds - a distinguishing characteristic is the gurgling sound the worm makes as it retreats down its tunnel, somewhat like water draining out of a bath. The worms emit a milky coelomic fluid from their dorsal pores when disturbed. This apparently lubricates the tunnel and aids movement. This plus the water in the tunnel probably contributes to the gurgling sound.

Distribution - Smith and Peterson (1982) concluded that it is found in deep, blue-grey, clay soil, ph 5 (approx.), along creek banks, near soaks and springs, on river flats or on south or west facing slopes of hills in 100,000 hectares of the Bass River Valley, roughly bounded by Loch, Korumburra and Warragul. Distribution however is very patchy, the centre of which may be as small as 5,000 hectares centering on Loch.

A report of M. australis was recently confirmed in Mt. Worth State Park. The grid sampling of Beverley's team has found that only 6% of the total area had worms present and 80% were within 40m. of creeks, gullies or soaks. This contrasted to reports from local farmers stating that the worms were found all over their properties.

Density - this is unknown. In the study site it varies from a low of none to one in summer, to a high of 12 per metre squared in September, the breeding season. Average density is 2.7 worms per m.sq. This is small compared with others, for example European earth worms may be up to 1,000 per m.sq.

Conservation - The Giant Gippsland Earthworm has survived despite destruction of the original vegetation and the inevitable changes in soil moisture and temperature that this must have brought about. Its apparent longevity indicates a slow population turnover which in turn means population response to environmental change is slow. It is not known if the patchiness of distribution at Loch is a reflection of recent range fragmentation or whether it is an historical distribution pattern. However in view of the small range and patchiness of distribution conservation measures should be taken to ensure its survival. Beverley suggested it may be prudent to consider it an endangered species. There appears to be a conceptual barrier to the concept of conserving invertebrates.

Giant Gippsland Earthworm...cont.

Within Australia only a few charismatic species such as the bird wing butterfly and the fewel beatle are protected. M.australis is currently under consideration for listing as protected wildlife under Victorian legislation.

There needs to be a lot more information on distribution and ecological requirements before a detailed management plan can be formulated. Beverley summed up a fascinating evening with the following suggestions to this end:

1. Further research on biology and distribution.
2. Incentive schemes for farmers to manage land in ways which assist conservation.
3. Establish worm reserves. However all the sites known except for one in Mt. Worth State Park, are on private property.
4. Development of a water shed management plan for the Bass River Valley.

Julie Parker.

A WELL FED FROG

The weather was overcast on 23rd. October when we visited French Island with a local walking group. Prior to the start of the walk we were driven north along the road on the west side of the island. There was a stop at the old school site for a walk to the beach to view the Zostera beds and sea birds. As we walked back to the vehicle a plump brown frog was seen on the sand below the Coastal Tea Tree. A second look revealed that the frog was eating a very young baby bird. The bird's head and neck and tiny wings were well down the frog's throat with the swollen abdomen being gradually sucked into the frog's mouth. A curious finger was placed on the protuding bird and the frog immediately moved both its front legs forward to brush that finger away! Unfortunately we could not stay to watch the final disappearance of the meal. Nor could we identify the frog. We were told that there are seven frogs native to the island.

E.P. Brewster.

CORRECTION TO NOTICE ABOUT JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND 1991

At present the cost will be $12.50 per person per night. It will not be any dearer.

Barbara Nielsen.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LVFNC INC. 24/10/90

Six members present. Five apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Program Planning Meeting - Monday 15th. October. Program for 1991 is complete.
2. Friday 23rd. November - Reg Johnson: 'Flowers, Feathers and Fun'.
3. Saturday 24th. November - Excursion to Cowarr/Toongabbie. Meet 10 am at Oasis Cafe, Toongabbie. B.GO. Thompson will lead.
4. Working Bee on Dec. 1st. at A. Ringin's for Christmas Break-up.
5. Camp Gelantipy (Jan. campout). Cost may be up to $12.50/ person/night. Can only take 10 - 12 people on Fri. night but more for other nights. (Secretary will find more information re prices).
6. Yallourn Nth. LNAG (R.Houghton) - concerned about SEC burning of a fern gully on Old Latrobe River Rd. L.Long will visit area with him to see if it is the area which LVFNC were involved with. If not, invite him to next BM to discuss.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1. Presented draft submissions for (i) Gippsland Lakes Management Plan. (ii) Tarra/Bulga National Park Management Plan.
2. Morwell City Council to consider erecting signs at the wetlands area on the west end of Morwell.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st. November, 1990 at 7.30 pm, YMCA Morwell. All members welcome.

Supper Roster: Jessie Burns and Dorothy Farrow. Friday 23rd. November, 1990.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Margaret Wentworth
5 Guntzler Court
Traralgon 3844

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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC INC.

Meeting: Friday 18th. January 1991 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Member's Slide Night "The LVFNC Inc. on Film in 1990".

Excursion: Australia Day weekend January 25th. - 28th. Annual Campout at Karoonda, Gelantipy. See October Naturalist for details.

Excursion: Howman's Gap Campout - Labour Day Weekend Friday 8th. - Monday 11th. March, 1991. (see pages 6 to 7).

Warragul FNC: Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

FLORA AND FAUNA OF TASMANIA - KEN HARRIS

Tasmania is interesting because it has a large number of endemic flora and fauna. Bass Strait is the large geographical barrier which has isolated many of the island's species, allowing them to evolve separately from their counterparts on the mainland.

Most Australian flora originates from Gondwana and has little in common with those which evolved north of the Wallace line (which occurs east of Java). Tasmania shares a number of groups of plants with New Zealand and South America eg. Leatherwood and Antarctic Beech, through these ancient links.

In Tasmania there are a huge variety of climates from the high rainfall areas of the west to the relatively dry climates in the east. Plant communities vary considerably: from alpine to rainforest, from wet sclerophyll forest to dry sclerophyll forest and coastal heathlands.

It is impossible to deal with all of Ken's slides in this article, however a list of endemic species presented is attached.

Tasmania's endemic flora include:

The Lomatias (3spp.) which are more aptly called Guitar plants in Tasmania for the characteristic shape of their seed pods - although to some it looks more like a mandolin.

Clematis gentianoides is interesting because unlike its mainland counterparts it is a ground plant and does not climb at all.

The Orchid family has fewer endemic species than other groups eg. Caladenia chordata which is similar to pattersonii and reticulata but it has a tail on the tip of the labellum which is not curled under as it is in pattersonii.

Stackhousia gunnii: on the morning this slide was taken at 7.30 Ken consulted his "Endemic Flora of Tasmania" to ascertain its status - "no plants found in recent times", and yet at 11 am that same morning he was photographing it.

Nearly half of Tasmania's 29 species of eucalypt are endemic.

Callitris oblonga though not endemic has a strange distribution, the only site outside Tasmania is in N.S.W.

Endemic birds include:

The Yellow-throated honeyeater which is the Tasmanian equivalent of the White-cheeked honeyeater.

The Tasmanian native hen which is a flightless bird of the open grassland.

The Dusky robin which has cryptic plumage.

.../2

Flora and Fauna of Tasmania...cont.

The star of all endemic Tasmanians, the Forty-spotted pardalotte whose two main surviving colonies are on Nth. Bruny Island and Maria Island.

The Green rosella is classified as a subspecies of the mainland Crimson rosella. It shows the features typical of island bird species, which tend to be larger and more cryptically coloured through atendency to retain the juvenile plumage.

The Clinking currawong is now classified as a subspecies of the Grey currawong but it is never grey in Tasmania as it is blacker than the Black currawong.

There are three species of snakes in Tasmania - none are endemic.

Tasmania's Brushtailed possums are more varied in colour (from grey to brown) than Victoria's grey Brushtails.

Potarcos and Bandicoots are also not endemic but are far more common in Tasmania than Victoria.

The following is a list of the slides of endemic flora and fauna to which we were treated in what was an interesting and informative talk.

Ken Savage.

ENDEMIC FLORA AND FAUNA OF TASMANIA

1. HOBART AREA

Eucalyptus pulchella (white peppermint)
Eucalyptus amydalina (black peppermint)
Eucalyptus cordata
Eucalyptus risdonii (Risdon peppermint)
Yellow-throated honeyeater
Green rosella
Asterotrichion discolor (currajong)
Senecio centropappus
Telopea truncata (Tasmanian waratah)
Acacia riceana
Dusky robin
Bedfordia linearis
Pimelea nivea
Lomatia tinctoria (guitar plant)
Veronica formosa
Helichrysum scutellifolium
Pomaderris elliptica
Clematis gentianoides
Tasmanian native hen

ENDEMIC FLORA AND FAUNA OF TASMANIA...cont.

2. SOUTH-EAST

Olearia persoonioides
Westringia angustifolia
Westringia rubiacfolia
Helichrysum reticulatum
Spyridium ulicinum
Forty-spotted pardalotte
Epacris marginata
Caladenia caudata

3. EAST AND NORTH COASTS

Leptospermum glaucescens
Ixodia (idoxia) achlaena
Helichrysum lycopodioides
Melaleuca pustulata
Black-headed honeyeater
Stenanthemum pimelioides
Correa backhousiana
Ixodia (idoxia) angustata
Dodonea ericifolia
Spyridium obovatum (var. velutinum)
Bothriembryon tasmanicus (snail)

4. MIDLANDS

Tasmanian devil
Acacia pataczekii
Yellow wattle-bird
Acacia axillaris
Stackhousia gunnii
Leiolopisma ocellatum (ocellated skink)

5. WEST AND SOUTH-WEST

Blandfordia punicea (Tasmanian Christmas bells)
Dacrydium franklinii (Huon pine)
Anodopetalum biglandulosum (horizontal)
Agastachys odorata (white waratah)
Lomatia polymorpha
Prionotes cerinthoides (climbing heath)
Isophysis tasmanica
Prasophyllum buftonianum

6. RAINFOREST AND WET SCHLEROPHYLL FOREST

Eucryphia lucida (leatherwood)
Bedfordia salicina (blanket-leaf)
Anopterus glandulosus (mountain laurel)
Strong-billed honeyeater
Tasmanian thornbill
Scrub tit
Orites diversifolia
Gaultheria hispida (snowberry)
Aristotelia peduncularis
Caryodes dufresnii (snail)

7. ALPINE

Athrotaxis cuppressoides (pencil pine beside Forgotten Lake)
Eucalyptus coccifera (snow gum)
Eucalyptus urnigera (urn gum)
Richea pandanifolia
Nothofagus gunnii (deciduous beech)
Callistemon viridiflorus
Hakea epiglottis
Black currawong

.../4

ENDEMIC FLORA AND FAUNA OF TASMANIA...cont.

Pademelon
Olearia ledifolia
Cyathodes parvifolia
Pimelea sericea
Helichrysum hookeri
Exocarpus humifusus
Euphrasia diemenica
Euphrasia striata and mountain blue butterfly
Rubus gunnianus
Pernettya tasmanica
Pentachondra involucrata
Leptospermum rupestre
Bellendena montana (mountain rocket)
Orites acicularis
Leiolopisma pretiosa (alpine [illegible] skink)
Abrotanella tasmanica (cushion plant)

CORRECTION RE "CHRISTMAS BEETLES IN JULY" - L.V. NATURALIST, OCTOBER 1977

Recent mail included a request from a gentleman studying Scarab beetles to see the photographs we had taken of beetles we had found in the stump of an old pear tree in 1977. After inspection of the slides he has returned them with the information as below. Our "Christmas Beetles" were "Stag Beetles". Re-reading the 1977 note I see the beetles were quoted as 30cm. in length. No doubt a typist's error as they were only 30mm. (3cm.) long.

F. Brewster.

CHRISTMAS BEETLES (LUCANIDAE) IN JULY AT INVERLOCH

I. FAITHFUL, 1/30A Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, 3124.

A previous note on this subject (Brewster, 1977) recorded the discovery of apparently hibernating "Christmas Beetles" in the rotten stump of an old pear tree. At the time, photographs of the beetles were taken and recent examination of these slides has allowed identification of the species: Lamprima aurata Latreille, of the family Lucanidae, Stag Beetles.

Its accepted common name (Carne, 1987) is Golden Stag Beetle. The name Christmas Beetle properly applies to the genus Anoplognathus of the Scarabaeidae. The Golden Stag Beetle is commonly found on Acacia in the summer and according to Moore (1984, 1986) the larvae feed in old, dry logs and stumps of Eucalyptus, Casuarina, and sometimes exotic garden trees. Probably, overwintering in the adult state is not uncommon. The photographs show one or more males and the associated cavities in the wood.

References : Brewster,E.,1977. Christmas Beetles in July at Inverloch. Latrobe Valley Naturalist 160:5
Carne,P.B. (Editor) 1987. Scientific and Common Names of Insects and Allied Forms Occurring in Australia, CSIRO, East Melbourne, 120 pp.
Moore,B.P., 1984 & 1986. A Guide to the Beetles of South-Eastern Australia. Fascicles 6 & 7, pp.85-116 in Australian Entomological Magazine, 11(4,5);13(3,4).

.../5

RIVERS OF CENTRAL GIPPSLAND : DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

On Saturday 23rd. June, eighteen members of the club met at Toongabbie to take part in an excursion which would embrace both river management and the different stages of development of a river. Mr. Phil Taylor of the Mid-Gippsland Rivers Management Board was to cover erosion-control aspects, while club member and geologist Mr. David Thomas was to have the opportunity to illustrate the stages in the life-cycle of a river identified in his talk the previous night.

Our first stop was at a point on the upper reaches of Fell's Creek, approximately 3-4km from the foothills, to view erosion control works. Mr. Taylor noted that the creek bed had dropped by as much as one metre in places as a result of the 21-22 April 1990 flood. He explained that, about eight years ago, some battering of banks of Fell's Creek had carried out, but in the absence of grade control works on the bed to reduce flow velocity, this early work was somewhat ineffective. More recent management has recognised the primary importance of grade control structures; we inspected one such structure which involved the placement of some 270 cubic metres of large rocks on a carefully graded slope in the creek bed. The size and placement of such rocks is critical if they are not to be carried downstream by high flows. It was noted that this structure had been completed at a cost of approximately $8000.

David Thomas took the opportunity to explain that this section of Fell's Creek provides an example of meander erosion, with the channel meandering from one side of the bed to the other, and severe erosion consequently occurring on opposite banks a short distance apart along the river.

A little further downstream, we were able to walk through one of the tunnels in the now-defunct railway embankment and observe that the channel below this embankment was much straighter. Severe undercutting of a very steep bank reflected the relatively steep gradient of the bed at this point.

We farewelled Mr. Taylor at Fell's Creek, with our President thanking him on behalf of the club. A potentially beneficial contact had been established between our two excursion leaders during the morning.

After a diversion to Cowwarr Weir for lunch, we headed north-east towards Seaton and Lake Glenmaggie under David's guidance. We stopped near Stony Creek to view an earlier course of that stream, effectively an old ox-bow no longer in use. A river terrace could also be discerned, probably the bed of an earlier swamp at a higher level.

At Seaton, David drew our attention to a small and mature river valley characterised by a relatively flat valley floor and distinct river terraces.

We drove on to a point in the valley of Glenmaggie Creek, near Truro, where we had the good fortune to be met by Mr. Michael Dennis, one of the local landholders.

.../6

Rivers of Central Gippsland...cont.

Mr. Dennis cheerfully accompanied us in a brief exploration of the flood plain in this valley, noting the many different past courses of the creek across this plain. This flood plain even provided a small ox-bow lake for us! Mr. Dennis explained that the area had recorded 30cm of rain in one day at the time of the April floods. Earlier work on the banks along one section of the creek in the form of extensive plantings of willows had proved effective in minimising erosion during the flood, but sadly there had been massive erosion further downstream with a doubling of the width of the bed in places.

Our final destination was Gleeson's Bridge, again on Glenmaggie Creek, but this time just above its point of inflow to Lake Glenmaggie. David explained that we had here a mature river valley with a flat bottom and quiet flow in the creek. The gravel banks visible on this stretch were not characteristic of the mature stage, but were evidence of the recent flood, as was the considerable tree debris in and beside the channel.

It was here that an azure kingfisher, alcyone azurea, enthralled us all as it flew rapidly between various tree perches on both sides of the bridge.

In this beautiful place, palely lit by the late afternoon winter sun, we thanked David for his many contributions to a particularly informative excursion.

Philip Rayment.

HOWMAN'S GAP CAMPOUT
LABOUR DAY WEEKEND - FRIDAY 8TH - MONDAY 11TH MARCH 1991

The North-East F.N.C. is hosting the Victorian F.N.C.A. Campout this year at Howman's Gap near Fall's Creek. The following information is for those interested in attending:

Accomodation: In modern chalet type building with interior toilets and shower facilities. Bunk room style sleeping accomodation. (2 - 8 bed rooms). Pick your own room on arrival. Blankets and pillows are provided, BRING YOUR OWN BED LINEN. ALL MEALS PROVIDED. NO MEAL PROVIDED FRIDAY EVENING.

Cost: Adult - $70.00 per head (This includes meals)
Children - 2-5 years $35.00. 6-9 years $60.00.

NB: These costs are approximate only as the costs are determined each December. We have tried to anticipate the rise. It is possible some refund will be given.

.../7

Howman's Gap Campout...cont.

Activities: The North East Field Naturalists Club will provide leaders for the following groups: Botany, Bird Watching, Photography and General Natural History.

A full day walk will be offered both Saturday and Sunday for those more adventuresome.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, Barbara Nielsen.

1990 QUEENSCLIFF LABOUR DAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT

We attended this weekend last March which was hosted by the Geelong FNC and found it a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

The weekend was packed with activities which were all quite new to me, and were very well organized with expert leaders in each field. Some activities were located in and around the Queenscliff Marine Studies Centre with staff from the Centre. We went rock pooling and bird watching on many of the beaches in the area and had two boat trips with ample time to view interesting features on the way. Each evening there were displays, book and publication sales and guest speakers. We met many Naturalists from clubs throughout Victoria and found all our leaders extremely helpful, patient and keen to explain anything that interested us.

If this weekend was representative of these Campouts I can thoroughly recommend them to any members.

Wendy Savage.

SPECIALIST BOOKSHOP

Members may be interested in this Specialist Bookshop; its catalogue of Bird books comprised 800 titles alone!

Andrew Isles Natural History Books
113 - 115 Greville Street, PRAHRAN, 3181.
Phone: (03) 5157501 (03) 5296856.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 21/11/90

Nine members present. Two apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. January Campout at Celantipy, Friday 25th-Sunday 27th. Karoondah Park. Maps will be available at January meeting. 12 people arriving Friday and 12 arriving Saturday. Any further people may go on a waiting list.

2. Approach from Yallourn North resident about burnt bush and erosion damage. This was area Club was involved in. Plant census was conducted this month but resident unable to be contacted to attend. P.Rayment will try to ring him.

3. Saturday December 8th. Christmas Break-up at A. Ringin's. Bring your own food for Barbe-que, chairs, tables etc.

4. BFNC - Planned combined trip to Mt. Hedrick on October 12th, 1991. (as per correspondence)

5. Earls Road Landcare Group (advance notice per W.Savage). Invitation to Official Opening on 8th. Dec. at 10 am. (As per correspondence).

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

1. Reply to City of Morwell re signs on highway by-pass for the wetlands.

2. Four members carried out a census in West Gully Yallourn North after the burn last autumn for SEC. Forty extra species added to the list.

3. Four members helped Sale FNC and DCE officers in a species count at Dawson.

4. To prepare response to Lake Wellington Wetlands Management Plan.

5. Forest Management Area Advisory Committee: meeting discussed management prescriptions for hardwood production, access roads, operational standards, regeneration and protection of water quality, flora & fauna, landscape values and significant sites. Field Trip: Tour viewed reforestation of abandoned farmland and plantations.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th. January, 1991 at 7.30 pm, YHCA, Morwell. All members welcome.

Supper Roster: (to be announced in January Naturalist).

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC INC.

Meeing: Friday 18th. January 1991 at 7.30pm.

Speaker.: Members' Night.

Excursion: 25th.-28th. January.
Camp-out at Karoonda Park, Gelantipy.

Excursion: Howman's Gap Camp-out - Labour Day Week-end. Friday 8th.-Monday 11th. March,1991.

Warragul FNC: Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Morwell National Park:

Contact Secretary for details.

Friends of Mount Worth Park:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month.
Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056 23 1563.

Australian Conservation Foundation Local Group:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St., Morwell.

ISSN 1030-5084

HEATHLANDS

Our guest speaker was Susan Taylor, the Conservation Guarantor from the Department of Conservation and Enviroment at Yarram. Susan's particular area of study is plant ecology.

Heathlands are very extensive in Victoria being found from west to east particularly at Discovery Bay, The Portland area, the Warrnambool coast, Port Philip Bay (prior to suburbanization), South Gippsland and especially in the Wilson's Promontory and Croajingalong National Parks. Heathland vegetation occurs also from coastal to alpine areas.

Heathlands are defined by two structural characteristics, i.e. the height of the tallest plants and the density of the foliage cover. So they are described as CLOSED heathlands when the vegetation cover is 70-100% or OPEN heathland when the cover is 30-70%. Shrubs can be up to two metres high. Heathlands are dominated by low shrubs, usually evergree with sclerophyllous leaves and generally extensive root systems, e.g. Banksia, Casuarina, Leptospermum and Eucalyptus.

Heathlands may be graded into other vegetation types i.e. taller shrubs (shrubland); low, scattered trees (woodland) or with denser trees (open forest). The heathland plants then form the "heathy" understory of the trees. On the ground is found a diverse array of herbaceous plants and smaller shrubs. These come from families such as Epacridaceae, Papilionaceae, Myrtaceae, Proteaceae, Restionaceae, Cyperaceae, Poaceae and Orchidaceae. The type of plants vary greatly according to the area: e.g. reeds and sedges in wetter areas and annuals in drier places.

Heathlands comprise a very rich flora with a greater number of species per unit area than any other vegetation type.

Leaves - The leaves of most heathland plants have adaptations to prevent water loss e.g. they are sclerophyllous - hard, stiff and leathery with thick cuticles (waxy covering). Stomata (pores) are sunken so that the normal escape of water into the atmosphere is reduced. Also the leaf cells are thick-walled and contain tannins, resins and essential oils which work to thicken the sap and so reduce water flow in the plants. Of course these oils increase they flammability of the foliage. Many seasonal plants, e.g. the orchids do not need tough leaves to reduce water loss because their growth period is in the cooler months.

Roots - Many heathland plants have underground organs such as lignotubers, rhizones, bulbs and tubers. These are plant adaptations to fire and drought. Should the above ground part of the plant be razed or die, the under ground organs survive and the plant rapidly resprouts.

.../2

Heathlands....cont.

Heathland plants possess specialized root structures to cope with nutrient poor soil. Small roots can be found at the boundary between the litter layer and mineral soil. Here, where decomposition is occurring, nutrients are released and are readily taken up by the plants. Each Family has its own specialized root system whereby enzymes are released to break up the complex soil phosphate thus enabling the mineral to be absorbed. The Proteaceae family (e.g. Bansias) has roots known as Proteoid, the Myrtaceae (Eucalypts) Mycorrhizal roots etc.

Soils - Heathland plants are found on nutrient poor soils and are often stunted due to poor drainage. The plants are especially adapted to soils low in nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen and the trace elements: potassium, sulphur, zinc, copper, manganese and molybdenum. The causes of low soil nutrients can be due to:
- initial poor parent material - e.g. sandstones and acid granites.
- nutrients have been leached out over the course of time.
- poor drainage blocking the availability of nutrients.

NB: if soilds become contaminated with fertilizers many plants will become locally extinct because they cannot cope with the elevated nutrient levels.

Fruits - Many heathland plants have Bradysporous fruits, i.e. hard and woody e.g. Proteaceae, Casuarinaceae, Myrtaceae. They retain their seeds for many years and are only released by heat during a fire. Regeneration of such plants is very dependent on, or synchronized with, fire. If fire occurs before the species sets viable seed they can be wiped out. Then again, if the fire frequency is too long, insects can attack the woody fruits and eat viable seed.

Other plants release their seed as soon as it matures. Many heathland plants, e.g. Acacias, produce large, smooth, dark coloured seed with a thick, hard coat. Attached is a small shite or lightly-coloured appendage (known as Elaiosome) which is filled with sugar and is very attractive to ants. They carry away the seed to eat the elaiosome but because they cannot break the seed coat they discard the seed. This method of seed dispersal is called Myrmecochorous dispersal, this is a unique feature of Australian heathland plants. It is estimated that 1500 heathland species, 87 genera are probably dispersed by ants.

Fire ; Heathland vegetation is well adapted to fire which is an integral part of its ecology. As mentioned earlier many readily sprout from lignotubers, and bradysporous plants release seeds after fire.

Fire released seeds from woody fruits, cracking open hard seeds. It destroys dense over-story creating gaps for seedlings to come up in, and it reduces competition from mature plants for water, light and nutrients.

.../3

Heathlands...cont.

In the heathlands of southern Australia seedling regeneration is limited to the period immediately following fire. Then follows a period of colourful flowering seasons of a diverse range of heath species.

Fire is important for maintaining diversity in heathlands. As time goes by after a fire, so the display and number os species decreases.

The Fire Orchid, Lypeanthus nigricans only flowers after fire. The grass trees, Xanthorrhoea develop tall flower spikes after fire.

Many heathland animals such as the New Holland Mouse and the Ground Parrot indirectly require fire to survive. They require a variety of plant age-classes. This will not be available without burning. Also, with the fragmentation of heathlands the mice have no corridors along which they can seek out their particular requirements. Hence the rest of them becoming extinct.

In the pre-European times the aborigines travelled through the heathlands to the coast for their sea food. It would be easier travelling through heathlands than dense timber. They would have maintained fire regimes.

In conclusion Susan said that if we wich to maintain the diversity of our heathlands, it is important to include ecological burning in management programs. The slides Susan showed illustrated the encroachment of walls of shrubs, e.g. Kunzea and Leptospermum laevigatum into the heathlands. Also the suppression of heath plants at the base of Eucalyptus baxteri (process known as Alleopathy, a sort of toxic warfare between plants. Toxic chemicals exuded out of the shrub affects the heath growing underneath). Another slide showed the effect of beetle infestation.

Some orchids illustrated included Caladenia dilata and menzesii, Prasophyllum elatum, Thelymitra matthewsii and Pterostylis plumosa, curta and foliata.

Following the slides many questions promoted a stimulating discussion, e.g. the recommended frequency of burning (5 - 15 years), the dilemma National Parks have in considering making such burns when our community has grown up fearful of the devastating effect of fire on life and property. Public education about the ecological effects of fire. There was some conjecture about the aborigines knowlege of fire and ecology.

All told, Sue gave us a wonderfully interesting talk which was obviously appreciated by all members. A small presentation was made to Sue who had travelled from Yarram to speak to us. We looked forward to meeting her the next day on our excursion to Biddy's Beach at Wilson's Promontory.

Mary Austin.

.../4

OCTOBER BOAT TRIP

Saturday 27th. October was a beautiful day as Club members met at the various meeting places awaiting the bus for the trip to Wilson's Promontory. Fourteen people travelled by bus and another sixteen people were waiting at Port Welshpool. We were pleased that Susan Taylor from Yarram D.C.E. was able to join us for the day. She had been the speaker at our meeting on the previous evening.

Travelling from the Latrobe Valley to Gormandale towards Yarram there were many patches of flowers on the roadside. Most noticeable was Wedding Bush Ricinocarpus pinifolius and Snowy Daisy-Bush Olearia lirata, which were flashes of white as we sped past.

At Port Welshpool we noticed the preparations for the proposed new ferry service to Tasmania which will commence in 1991.

The two boatmen were waiting at their boats so we divided into two groups for the journey. It was a pleasant trip to Biddy's Beach on the northern end of the Promontory near the entrance to Bass Strait.

On arrival at our destination, we stepped into the dinghy to get closer to shore then stepped into the water and waded ashore carrying the assortment of picnic hampers etc. We sought the shade of trees at the end of the beach, deciding it was lunch time. It was noticed that Biddy's Beach has suffered quite a lot of erosion since the last Club trip in February 1985. We could only speculate as to the cause of the erosion.

After lunch we walked inland through masses of nettles before reaching a swampy area and finally an open meadow. It was appalling to see the amount of Ragwort Senecio jacobacea in the area. This is an introduced species and is a serious weed in Victoria. Another introduced species Senecio elegans with a magenta flower was noticed near our lunch spot. The larger plants were White Kunzea K. ambigua and Coastal Tea-tree Leptospermum laevigatum. Two orchids were seen, Pink Fingers Caladenia carnea and Hare Orchid Caladenia menziesii.

We passed decaying bodies of animals, one thought to be a Wombat and the other more recognisable as a Koala.

Two members observed a Hog Deer among the trees. The Hog Deer Axis porcinus has been imported from Asia in the late 1880's and there are colonies on Snake Island, Little Snake Island and Sunday Island as well as those on the Promontory. These populations are a significant part of the world population as these animals are almost unknown in their native Asian habitat.

We noticed a Wedge-tailed Eagle soaring overhead and Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos were noisy as they flew near us.

.../5

October Boat Trip....cont.

The birdoswere enjoying themselves as they recorded Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Famtail and Wrens. Water Birds noted were Pacific Gull, immature brown and the mature black and white plumage. Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers were seen on the beach as were a colony of Crested Terns. A lone Godwit was also seen. As the boats passed the channel markers we noticed that they were inhabited by many Cormorants, both Little Black and Pied species waiting to dive on a fish meal.

All enjoyed a sunny day on the beach where we sat on large patches of N.Z. Spinach Tetragonia tetragonioides which was growing there. This is an edible plant and it is grown in many gardens for this purpose.

The boats were preparing for departure so we walked along the beach to wade to the dinghy and board the boats for the return journey to Port Welshpool. The return trip was most pleasant and we felt lucky to have had such a nice day for our trip.

We said goodbyes to our friends before boarding the bus for the journey back to the Latrobe Valley towns and the end of another enjoyable Club excursion.

Lorna Long.

AN ILLUSIVE PLANT

Trotting out along the board walk across McLeod's Morass with friend Joan in Bairnsdale last year we noted the masses of weeds and pasture species that had colonised the new road along the creek. There is a wealth of water-loving plants as well, most of them familiar in similar situations. One, however, was a complete and utter stranger. It was an attractive plant with three-fingered opposite leaves and I did not know what to make of it. I brought a rooted scrap home and installed it in my vegetable garden until such time as it would declare itself by producing a flower.

It was interesting watching the plant develop, but, like a watched pot, it took its time. At about half a metre or so it budded and flowered, curious prickly yellowish buttons that set me hunting through the Asteraceae. In this narrowed field I tracked it down to Bidens tripartita, the Erect or Burr Marigold. Like so many plants of the old world, for it is an introduction to this country, it has been used as a medicinal herb for centuries past, mainly for conditions of the liver and spleen. "Anything green that grew out of the mould was an excellent herb to our fathers of old". Herbalists still find use for it. Bidens is not listed for our area but is known to be common in McLeod's Morass. It is an annual.

Ellen Lyndon.

.../6

PRASOPHYLLUM ROSTRATUM - The Slaty Leek Orchid

Further to the Leek orchid at Cowarr that we all saw on the November excursion, I have received a reply to the specimens I sent away for identification. Both specimens were the same orchid, Prasophyllum rostratum - the Slaty Leek Orchid. This orchid was previously known as P. gracile which has now been divided into 2 species - P. rostratum with a sessile labellum and P. pyriforme with the usual strap to the labellum.

Prasophyllum rostratum is not on the rare and threatened list. Although it is not that common it is not threatened and has wide distribution in Victoria south of the Great Divide and in south-eastern N.S.W., S.A. and Tasmania.

Bon Thompson.

SASSAFRAS

Southern Sassafras tree (Atherosperma moschatum) on the property of Mr. Darby at Noe South caused much comment on the bird day, 5th. November, 1990. It was thought the tree did not really look like the Sassafras trees of Bulga Park and other places where members have seen them. The leaves were entire, not toothed. Because of the fragance of the leaves when crushed which was like nutmeg and Mary Austin had this note about Sassafras leaves, we were satisfied it was a Sassafras tree.

However on checking the books at home I find both the toothed leaves and the conical crown of these trees do not always apply in mature trees. In "Forest Trees of Australia" it states older trees have open crowns with decumbent lower branches. As Ollie could not reach round the trunk of the tree with his arms we have no doubt it was an older tree. The leaves can be entire sometimes and have a few scattered hairs on both sides, which the leaves from the above tree had. Flowering time is July - September and the floral segments soon fall. The tree has separate male and female flowers and the specimens collected were all female. After losing their "petals" the male flowers, without ovaries, would probably be so small we would not notice them.

Bon Thompson.

Members of our club are saddened to hear of the death of John Mewett in December, 1990. John was the publicity officer of the club for many years. His funeral was attended by two club members, Iris Peterson and Lorna Long. Condolences were sent to his family on behalf of the club.

.../7

"FLOWERS, FEATHERS & FUN" - Reg Johnson 23/11/90

We were fortunate in having the pleasure of the company of Mr. & Mrs. Reg. Johnson at the above meeting. Reg and his wife Kath are stalwarts of BOCA. Reg's talk was a lively commentary on a wide selection of slides, delivered in tones that everybody could hear.

Firstly, we were treated to pictures of old England, thatched cottages, gardens, lanes and bridges and ancient city walls. Local folk here get upset if a few lichens settle on their tiles. Now we saw a cottage roof that supported a veritable garden of succulents and adventitious plants that hung down over the door. There were barn owls in the belfires and old rail lines turned into attractive walking tracks. A dash of archaeology was thrown in with some habitations of the Ancient Britons. Slides came thick and fast. I remember switching to the Farne Islands to look at Puffins on the cliffs.

As a young man Reg piloted Lancasters in the 2nd World War. He must have borne a charmed life else we would not have been listening to him now. We visited his old haunts where today's farmers complain about the old concrete runways through their tidy fields, laid down in a hurry all those years ago and built to last. Perhaps he is still flying for we flipped over to the Cook Islands in the Pacific for a taste of the tropics and its birds.

Presently we were all in a bus travelling through the Northern Territory looking at scenes of Aboriginal history. Then came a most depressing sight of so-called rehabilitation of used goldfields in Central Victoria where the mining company had merely scratched the gravel together, never mind the top soil.

The Johnsons' own a bush block near, was it Rushworth?, that is listed under the Land for Wildlife scheme which they hope to leave in its unspoiled condition for all time.

Threaded throughout and between all the above variety was a lovely series of pictures of birds, orchids and wildflowers. It was a memorable evening and the vote of thanks was carried with great enthusiasm and appreciation. Our member, Ollie Thompson, who operated the projector and coped with mirror writing on mossy tombstones is also deserving of thanks. He was a busy man indeed!

Ellen Lyndon.

COWWARR - TOONGABBIE EXCURSION - NOVEMBER 1990

We commenced our excursion on Saturday assembling at the 'Oasis Cafe', Toongabbie on a cold, wet, windy morning. Bon Thompson issued each car driver a plant identification list to help us to identify plants that we hoped to see.

.../8

Cowwarr-Toongabbie Excursion....cont.

We commenced our excursion by travelling along the original Toongabbie - Walhalla Road.

1st. Stop (Everybody out) Looking at an Acacia mearnsii (Black Wattle) on the roadside. Bon explained that the gland positions were different on each wattle and by using a field lens we were able to see the glands of the Black Wattle that lay between each two pair of leaflets, we also noticed two Mistletoes growing on the trees, Amyema pendula Drooping Mistletoe which was in flower. (Birdo's were hoping to see the Mistletoe bird) and Muelleriana eucalyptoides the (Creeping Mistletoe). As we were looking at the trees we saw evidence of a Possum, upon looking up we saw a nest in a fork of a tree and very conveniently the Possum poked his nose out to see what the commotion was about. We travelled on through a Pine Plantation to our next stop.

2nd Stop (Raincoats now on) Here we saw Helichrysum cuneifolium (Rice-flower Everlasting) and further down the road the yellow species, Goodenia was blooming in abundance. Two different types of Dogwood grow in this area, we only saw one Cassinia longifolia (Shiny Cassinia).

3rd. Stop - Very good - Many varieties of flowers in bloom a few were Dianella revoluta (Black Anther Flax-lily), Thysanotus tuberosa (Common Fringe-lily), Platysace ericoides (Heath Platysace), this was in the pink bud stage. Many fleshy brown stems with buds of Dipodium punctatum (Hyacinth Orchid) could be seen, only two or three in flower, Helichrysum scorpioides (Curling Everlasting) and Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids. Exocarpos cupressiformis (Cherry Ballart) was most interesting - again using a fiels lens we were able to see the microscopic flowers in stalked spikes, also the hard green fruits.

4th Stop. Along the side of the road Olearia ramulosa (Twiggy Daisy-bush), with its white star like flowers was in profusion, plenty of Xanthorroea minor (Small Grass-tree) with creamy spikes like candles; Dampiera stricta (Blue Dampiera), Viola hederacea (Wild Violet) which was everywhere; Gratiola peruviana (Austral Brookline, Isotome fluviatilis (Swamp Isotome), with soft blue flowers and Conospermum ericifolium (Heath Conosperm). At this point in our journey we joined the Walhalla-Cowwarr Road which had become very 'yucky' owing to the heavy rain over night - we all slid to a stop to re-group - nobody ventured out of their car: we admired the red gum tips which were shining in the sunshine from the comfort of our cars. We then slipped and slid along the road for a while until the road surface became firm again and continued on our way to Cowwarr Weir for lunch.

.../9

Cowwarr - Toongabbie Excursion...cont.

After a leisurely lunch we followed the road across the Weir and the original river to a stop on the way to Stoney Creek. At this stop we all disembarked, and into the bush to look for Leek Orchids. Some were found and among those was one which differed from the rest and has to be identified, this will be sent to the Herbarium for checking. A member found the Caleana major Large Duck-orchid, and quantities of Stypanda glauca (Nodding Blue-lily).

At Stony Creek a number of us walked along a very over-grown track along the side of the river and saw Glycine clandestina (Twining Glycine), we then returned to the cars for afternoon tea. Phillip Rayment then gave a vote of thanks to Bon and Ollie for a most enjoyable and interesting excursion.

The number of birds recorded for the day was 33 species, all local to the area. Many were not seen due to the inclement weather. Of particular interest a few members saw a Dusky Moorhen on its nest during the lunch break.

Combined efforts from
car APH 345.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JANE

Congratulations to Jane Purbrick who recently came second sailing her catamaran in her division at the Masters Games on the Frankston Peninsula in November 1990. Jane also won the bronze medal in the "Masters Mile" run at the opening of the games. An article on Jane's success appeared in the Herald-Sun on 21.11.90 with a picture of Jane in her catamaran ("Paper Tiger") and also of running the "Masters Mile". Mention was made of Jane being one of the best female sailors in Australia.

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SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
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COMING EVENTS

LVFNC INC.

Meeting: Friday 22nd. February 1991 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Mr. Laurie Norman, DC&E.
Plans for the Gippsland Lakes.

Excursion: Saturday 23rd. February 1991.
Meet at DC&E office, 1 Lacey St. Sale at 10 am.

Excursion: Monday 4th. March 1991.
Bird-observing at Witt's Gully.
Meet 10 am at parking area N.W. side of bridge at Yallourn turn-off from Princes Highway.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

9th-11th March, 1991 - Bi-annual Friends Conference.
16th March - Yinnar South Country Fair.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone (056) 23 1563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St. Morwell.

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Car Sticker	V.Plant	315 Mch
Crinigan Road Reserve	E.Lubcke	315 Mch
Edward Hunter Bush Reserve	D.Sambell	316 Apr
Friends of Mt. Worth	J.Brookes	316 Apr
Land Protection Regional Advisory Committee	O.Thompson	315 Mch
Latrobe Valley Landscape Consultative Committee	J.Wall	315 Mch
L.V.F.N.C. President's Report	J.Purbrick	315 Mch
Magazine Library	D.Farrow	318 June
Rehabilitation Consultative Group	J.Blucher	315 Mch
Wirilda Project Association	O.Thompson	315 Mch
Friends of Morwell National Park	K.Harris	321 Sept
25th Annual Meeting of Sale FNC	B.Thompson	313 Jan
Grant to Preserve Native Grasslands		321 Sept
Latrobe Wildlife Reserve	R.Court	313 Jan
A Letter From Launching Place	"Betty"	319 July
Parks of Victoria Talk by J.Calder 22/11/89	P.Petschack	316 Apr
Photography for Field Naturalists Talk by N. Williams 23/2/89	R. Court	317 May
Specialist Bookshop		324 Dec
Thanks to Pam Petschack - the Retiring Editor	B.Nielsen	322 Oct

.../3

AUSTRALIAN NATURAL HISTORY MEDALLION

The Australian Natural History Medallion (ANHM) General Committee convene a meeting every 2 years to select 3 members of a 6 member Award Committee. The Award Committee is responsible for choosing winners who have been nominated throughout Australia by various natural history clubs to receive the AHNM. Dr. Elizabeth Turner is the L.V.F.N.C. nominated representative on the ANHM General Committee. This years winner is Mrs. Ellen McCulloch who was nominated by the Bird Observers Club of Australia and the Victorian Ornithological Research Group. Previously, this Award has been received by Miss Jean Galbraith.

GOULD LEAGE OF VICTORIA INC.

During 1991 the Gould League of Victoria will conduct two Natural History Programs and a Green Living Program. Each of the Natural History Programs covers ten topic areas and will consist of evening lectures and associated field studies on Saturdays from February to November 1991. The Green Living Program, held in May 1991, covers five topics dealing with conservation and waste minimization around the home, school and work place. For enquiries contact: (03) 510 1493.

BAIRNSDALE & DISTRICT F.N.C.Inc.

The Bairnsdale & District FNC meeting to be held on Friday, 15th March 1991 at 8.pm will have Brian Wallace as the speaker. He will give a Bushwalker's view of East Gippsland.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee is comprised of officers of the Department of Conservation and Environment and representatives of various organisations who use the forests for recreation, study or livelihood either in the forest or in associated industries.

We are examining a hierarchy of prescriptions which must be adhered to in the Central Gippsland Forest Management area. These prescriptions are being prepared taking into consideration the Code of Forest Practices and other prescriptions and guidelines which previously applied in Central Gippsland and Yarram regions.

At our meeting No.7 held on the 15th January 1991 we examined four topics, viz:

(i) our executive officer reported, that as usual, staffing was a problem, controlled very much by budget constraints.

.../4

Forest Management Area Advisory Committee....cont.

This in turn controls how rapidly "central mapping" data base information is being put into digested form for inclusion in the Geographic Information System in the central computer. Some of the surveys the Club has conducted are included in the G.I.S.

(ii) With respect to regeneration of native forests the method of harvesting must ensure the stands felled are regenerated following harvesting. Clear-felling is the most frequently used method because of the proven success of regeneration establishment that can be achieved.

Committee members are invited to visit an area at Tanjil Bren during February to examine a range of problems associated with silviculture.

One point of interest was, that in favourable conditions, several hundred hectares may be seed from the air in a day, with an average spread of 3/4 kg of seed per hectare.

(iii) Landscape values were discussed in some detail, with the broad aim that the least amount of disturbance of the forest possible to be seen from various specified tourist roads and tracks.

There has to be a balance between what may be acceptable to the tourist and the production we all draw from the forest. We must also remember that the picturesque forest we see today, if untouched, will ultimately become an over-mature forest and then decay, with crowns and limbs falling.

(iv) On your trips into the forest you undoubtedly have come across significant sites such as archeological, geological, geomorphological, historic and reference sites.

Measures to protect all of these are to be specified in the Forest Management Plan and where possible, the locations mapped.

F.J. Blucher
(LVFNCInc. rep.)

Please note that the Assistant Secretary's phone number (Mrs. Wendy Savage) is incorrect on the back page of the Naturalist. It should be (056) 34 2246. (This will be corrected in the near future).

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 16/1/91

7 members present. 4 apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Yallourn North burnt bush. P.Rayment has been away so no further contact with concerned resident. Plant census available if required.
2. Club Equipment. Suggest Club buys a projector, stand and magazines and appoint an Equipment Officer to be responsible for them. O.Thompson investigated prices which range from around $300-$600 for projector. Will price stand and magazines and present to AGM.
3. Business Meeting Night. Recommend Monday and confirm at next BM, if YMCA rooms available.

Finance:

Balance:		
	Cheque Account	$ 832.03
	Investment Account	$2300.40
	Conservation Account	$ 497.59

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:
Compiled list of plants for West Gully, Yallourn North. Census taken 17/11/90 after slow fuel reduction burn in April, 1990.
Received summary of submissions on Draft Gippsland Lakes Management Plan from project manager.
Sue Taylor, DC&E Yarram, visited our home 12/12/90 and collected lists of plants of various areas in the Yarram DC&E District to enter on their computer program.
Jim Blucher attended SECV rehabilitation field outing to overburden dump at west end of Morwell Open Cut. Three notes of importance to club arose at outing:-
a) Seed sown 1990 is supporting about a half a beast to the acre on grass and clover mixture recommended by Dept. of Agriculture.
b) Melaleuca stand on Eelhole Creek, Driffield end of open cut is to be enhanced to convert into a wetland area.
c) Seed is to be gathered from remnant stand of Yarra Gums along the old Midland Highway easement.
Jim Blucher reports Forest Management Consultative committee met on Tuesday night to consider regeneration of forest areas, landscape and significant sites.
Andrew Tytherleigh of Monash Uni. sent information concerning the LVFNC to be included in their report on the Blackberry Project. Also informed us of the final stage of the project. Club to check and return information on LVFNC.

Next Meeting: 20th. February 1991 at 7.30 pm, YMCA Morwell.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club inc. will be held on Friday, March 22nd. 1991 at 7.30 p.m. in the Moe Education Centre.

ELECTIONS: The following offices will be declared vacant.

President (2 year term)	After fives years Miss J.Purbrick has indicated that she is not seeking re-nomination.
Vice-President (2 year term)	Mr. P. Rayment has held this position for 2 years.
Assistant Secretary (2yr term)	Mrs. W. Savage has held this position for 2 years.
Treasurer (2 year term)	Miss M. O'Reilly only took on the 1 year of the previous 2 year term.

Please give considerable thought to the above positions. Nominations to be with the secretary by Wednesday, 20th. March, 1991.

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB, INC.

Nomination Form for Office

I wish to nominate.....

of.....for the position

of.....of this Club.

Proposer.....

Seconder.....

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office..

.....

This nomination form to be in the hands of the Secretary by Wednesday 20th. March, 1991.

(Master copy prepared by B.J.Nielsen)

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Margaret Wentworth
5 Guntzler Court
Traralgon 3844

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 327 MARCH, 1991

LVFNC INC.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Annual General Meeting. Video "The Black Robin".
Friday 22nd. March 1991 at 7.30 pm.

Speaker: Speaker from SECV on 'Greening of Australia'

Excursion: Saturday 23rd March. Excursion to Sale Common led by Sale FNC. Meet at Lake Guthridge behind Police Station at 10 am.

Excursion: Monday 1st. April, 1991.
Bird observing at Morwell National Park.
Meet 10 am Car Park at Morwell National Park.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

9th - 11th March, 1991: Bi-annual Friends Conference.
16th March, 1991: Yinnar South Country Fair (assisting CFL and fair committee).
21st. April, 1991: Tree Planting - 10.00 am onwards; follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Tebb Tce.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph: (056) 23 1563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St. Morwell.

CENTRAL GIPPSLAND LAND PROTECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During the past twelve months I have attended all six bi-monthly meetings of the above committee (LPRAC).

At these meetings many ongoing problems of Land Protection have been dealt with.

An on site inspection of the flood damage and erosion at Glenmaggie creek and McCalister river after the record floods of April 1990 was attended. Other site inspections included a visit to the stone quarry in the Boola forest, flood damage at Stony Creek, establishment of SECV pine plantations and forestry operations at Ezards Road and other locations in the Thomson Valley. These site inspections are usually carried out during the morning with normal meeting procedures taking up the rest of the day. In December the launching of the Earls Road Landcare group was attended.

If club members have any land protection or environmental problems or queries I would be pleased to put them to the above committee.

O. Thompson,
LVFNC Representative on LPRAC

NOTE OF THANKS FROM DALKIETH HOSTEL

A group of people, all Field Nats., came along with me and we had a lovely afternoon of entertainment at Dalkieth Hostel, and I received this note of appreciation from Lillian Keyhoe, the Hostel Supervisor. I won't mention names but believe me the oldies loved us. "Dear Norma, The Staff and Residents of Dalkieth would like to thank you and the members of the Field Nats. Club, for the great days entertainment that you gave us, a few days before Christmas. Thanking you. Lillian Keyhoe, Hostel Supv."

Norma Rees.

REPORT ON LANDSCAPE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Morwell/Traralgon corridor "Landscape Mini Strategy" was presented by the LRC;

A talk was given by M/S Val Callister on the "Greening of Australia".

World Environment Day 1990: Trees were planted along railway side of Princes Highway between Morwell and Traralgon by various groups.

.../2

Report on Landscape Consultative Committee....cont.

World Environment Day 1991: Sites suggested were Churchill, Morwell, Traralgon, Newborough, Yarram, Sale and Mirboo North. Schools to be contacted. Many areas were visited by members to see results of their recommendations.

Landscape Projects Current:

Sale: Two round-abouts in Central Business area and Railway Station.

Moe: Railway Station subject to expression of interest in re-development of entire railway site.

Traralgon: Plans are finalised on Central Business Area.

Morwell: Several projects around Morwell By-pass exits. Tree planting along the old Princes Highway Centre of Median strip planting, from McDonald Street to Midland Highway, Firmins Lane.
SEC/Private/Shire:- Plantings Morwell/Churchill corridor. Replacement of Elm Trees in George Street.

A discussion paper on Town Entrances was presented by Mr. David McCubbin for members comments.

A Sketch Design of a proposed Hernes Oak Rest Area was presented and discussed.

A good attendance was maintained throughout the year.

Jim Wall,
Club Rep.

PROJECTOR EQUIPMENT

For some years now the Club has been using member's projectors and stands to show slides at the Friday General Meeting.

The Committee believes that this is putting individual member's equipment at risk of damage or breakage as it is carried up and down stairs, and set up in the middle of a busy room.

For this reason investigations have been made into buying the Club's own equipment and after pricing various models about $320 is needed to purchase a projector, stand and spare magazines.

The equipment will only be bought if someone is prepared to be an 'equipment officer', which would entail keeping the equipment at their place and either bringing it to meetings when needed or arranging for someone else to collect it.

.../3

Projector Equipment...cont.

This person would need to live in a reasonably accessible location in the Latrobe Valley for ease of collection if need be.

Also the Club could purchase the above cheaper if any member had a second hand stand they were prepared to sell or donate.

The following motion will be put at the AGM: "The Committee recommends that providing the Club can appoint an Equipment Officer, a projector, magazines and stand be purchased at the approximate cost of $320.

Wendy Savage.

WIRILDA ENVIRONMENT PARK 1990-91

Attendance at meetings held during the year has been on average only six or seven people. Application was made to the National Afforestation Project for a grant to plant an area of 10 HEC. in Eucalypts but this was not successful.

Some trees were planted in the picnic area by school children on World Environment Day.

The Latrobe Central Rotary Club donated labour for the laying of a concrete floor and brick work for the electric barbeques which were purchased during the year. The collapse of Pyramid has been a big set back to progress as a big percentage of Wirilda's capital is unavailable.

But thanks to the rent from 5 houses and farm all outstanding accounts will be paid and the services of Mr. Bill Drowley as part time ranger will be retained.

O. Thompson,
LVFNC Rep. on Wirilda.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK: ANNUAL REPORT 1991

In this, the 21st year of practical enjoyment in this almost secret Park, our very limited numbers of reliable members continually leave at the end of the day amazed at the amount of the day's achievement which is steadily approaching the day when the 3½ kms of the Moonlight Valley Track for the variously handicapped will be completed to the point of general usability, there being parts at present that are a bit of an adventure to follow owing to the phenomenally rapid growth of vegetation for which the Park was intended as an example for posterity to be able to experience and study.

It is so different from the other wonderful variety of natural plant associations our network of tracks offer the more physically able climbing the steep hillsides that it

.../4

Friends of Mount Worth State Park.....cont.

is probably worth more than most because it is aimed to become available to nearly everybody with its sample environments the pioneers knew so well - Mountain Ash stands, Blackwood groves, countless thousands of Soft Treeferns, parts dominated by Fishbone Water-ferns, others showing what the pioneers meant when they spoke of dense Bracken head-high, or examples of Batswing Fern likewise dominating odd patches indicating an old mill- or camp- site, Mother Shield-fern at its best, Snowy Daisy-bush thickets with odd specimen plants of the species flowering a month or more after all those not within the shelter of Mount Worth have withered away. And for persons with more knowledge and understanding there is a wealth of other environmental factors available to observe and study in the less obvious plant and bird life.

The objective of its conception, and the superlative nature of what it offers are the basis of the enthusiasm of the members of the Friends Group that have sustained our enjoyment on the present project for the last three and half years.

We repeat our open invitation to any persons who can see in our Practical Enjoyment something more important than perhaps where a ball of some sort may go, or an artificially distorted flower may bloom, to join in the task of making this wonderful experience available to people who otherwise could not participate in this, our basic environment.

Jack Brooks,
Co-ordinator.

REPORT ON THE CRINIGAN ROAD RESERVE

There has not been very much happening with Crinigan Road Reserve this last year, there being only two small meetings called.

The main purpose of one meeting was to formalize the agreement to transfer about two acres in the top south west corner of the reserve, to the Maryvale Hospital Committee, where they have built a new Hospital, and they have given the Crinigan Rd. Reserve, about three acres, of the north west corner of their property, which brings us up to the Maryvale Road, now.

Have had some trouble with motor bikes coming back into the reserve this year. Have also found quite a lot of noxious weed, bone-seed this last year, have notified the offices of the City of Morwell, who are arranging some labour to have it destroyed.

Crinigan Road Reserve.....cont.

Will be helping one of the City of Morwell staff to spray the blackberries in the reserve in the next few days and pleased to say they are not near as bad as they used to be.

We will have to give some thought as to who will manage the Crinigan Rd. Reserve after this year, as our lease with the SEC runs out this year, the SEC has not as yet let us know what they want to do.

Eric Lubcke.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1990-1991

The Advisory Committee consists of a number of persons who represent sections of the community using the forest for recreation or for their livelihood: these people meet regularly with a group of D.C.E. staff who in turn represent the various divisions of the Department.

During the year the Committee has met eight times and has had three field excursions.

The object of the committee is to derive prescriptions for the management of our Gippsland forests which will reflect the desires and wishes of the community while still complying with the Forest Code of Practice for Hardwood Production in the area.

During our meetings we have discussed the following topics:- research on silviculture; forest coupe management; approaches to recreation planning eg. horse riding, driver/motor bike riding, fishing, deer hunting, fossicking, camping, water based activities; access roads and their standards; forest operational standards regeneration of native forest; protection of water quality; protection of flora and fauna; protection of landscape values, protection of significant sites; management of harvesting native forests; world, national and state conservation strategies flora and fauna data bases noting rare and endangered species; habitat requirements of different guilds.

Our first excursion was to the Erica operations area where we examined several issues:-
roading in ash forests; catchment issues; hardwood harvesting and regeneration; reaforestation; recreation.

The next excursion was into the Strzleckis where we saw:- reaforestation of an abandoned farm; a grazing property which will be reaforested; the new Yarra-Bulga visitors centre where we viewed a video on the history of the Strzleckis; a plantation site planted in 1950 some P. radiata and some E. regnans.

The third excursion was to Tanjil Bren where we looked at the silviculture research project.

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Annual Report.....cont.

This project is large by world standards and we had demonstrated to us many variations of reaforestation parameters spread over more than 100 field test areas and monitored by more than 100 staff.

The broad aim is to produce a computer model which will help to achieve the most production, safest with least roading or damage to the ecology, while maintaining best ratio of saw log to pulp wood.

J. Blucher,
LVFNC delegate.

OVERBURDEN REHABILITATION GROUP ANUAL REPORT FOR 1990-1991

The scope of the activities involves work at Yallourn, Yallourn East field, Yallourn North Extension, Morwell and Loy Yang open cuts.

Master plans for the long term approach are being prepared.

The Australian Mining Industries Council members inspected the LV area and were very favourably impressed; their handbook makes a very good adjunct to our Practices Code.

At Yallourn, Savigos/Westbrook gully are carrying stock successfully.

The Yallourn East Field environmental repair work is giving good results.

The batters on the YNX coad faces are being covered to reduce the fire risk.

Internal dumping may commence in the Morwell Open Cut this year. The west end is at its maximum planned movement, the batters have been landscaped and sown. The views from the Thorpdale road are impressive and the stock carrying rate good. The melaluca ericafolia remnant on Eel Hole Creek is to be protected and enhanced by fencing, weed control and hydrological works.

The committee made an extensive field inspection of the Loy Yang site. The rehabilitation task here is large of course, but good work right from the opening of the Cut has lessened the overall amount of rehabilitation needed, and an impressive amount has been achieved already.

It is envisaged that if Loy Yang is privatised that the accountability for the rehabilitation of the site will be squarely put on the purchases.

A large number of trees have been planted on SECV land to help stem the green house effect; the architectual and

..../7

Overburden Rehab. Group....cont.

Environmental Department have demonstrated to us how these and other plantings can make a large contribution to landscape values.

J. Blucher,
LVFNC member.

BIRD RECORDING OFFICER'S REPORT

The "first Monday of the month" Bird Observing excursions remain popular, but mainly with a small but enthusiastic group of regulars. All club members are reminded that they and their friends are welcome to come along and join the fellowship of these Bird Observing excursions.

They are anything but strenuous, usually consisting of a leisurely ramble along a bush track, followed by a late picnic lunch - equally leisurely and accompanied by much conversation! (Binoculars always at the ready, of course).

During the past year these excursions have been to Mr. Tony Manning's property at Yinnar South, Snake Ridge (Latrobe River) Rosedale, Lyrebird Walk Darlimurla, the Trafalgar Water-catchment area, Mr. and Mrs. Darby's property "Belmont Park" at Moe South, and Moondarra State Park.

Interest has been maintained in the Australian Bird Count, and three excursions have been made to our special study site at Wirilda.

Additions were made to our bird lists for Morwell National Park, Crinigan Road Reserve and Cowarr Weir area on the General Club excursions, also a list has been started for the Avon-Mt. Hedrick Scenic Reserve.

June Lubcke.

EDWARD HUNTER BUSH RESERVE

Moe City Council's allocation for the year was $8,000.

Coral Fern walk extension is continuing. Moe Capstaff Rovers were allocated $1,500 for the work to date. This has included approximately 100 metres of treated pine fencing for protection of this sensitive area.

The Lincoln street erosion continues despite the constant requests of the Management Committee. Council still has not provided the necessary funds to allow the urgent works to go ahead.

Fire prevention works have been carried out during the year. These have been the slashing of perimeters around the Reserve, as well as the burning off of those areas that have ground fuel loadings greater than 25 tonne per hectare.

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Edward Hunter Bush Reserve.....cont.

Ragwort was removed from the old horse paddock.

Manual cleaning of the creek bed. This work was continued throughout 1990 so that the streamflow in the Reserve can be maintained with minimum damage to the creek banks. Water flow into the Reserve from the Moe Waterworks still continues. The Committee has requested that the flushing of the flocuating agents and the soil discharges through the Reserve be discontinued. The Waterboard is working towards meeting this request by 1992.

Dulcie Sambell.

LVFNC Inc. PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1990-1991

Well, another exciting year has come to a close. We have again been extremely lucky with the calibre of our guest speakers and the variety of their subjects and excursions.

We started the year with a brilliant but very controversial speaker at our last A.G.M., namely Stephen Guest who certainly gave us all a lot to think about. Arthur Thiess gave a very interesting talk on Mosses, Hilary Weatherhead spoke on fungi and David Thomas gave us a new insight into the "Life Cycle of a River". The Giant Gippsland Earth Worm was revealed to us by Beverley Van Pragh, Ken Harris showed some marvellous slides of Tasmania's flora and fauna and we enjoyed a lovely outing with our friends at Bairnsdale Field Nats. to Mt. Hedrick. Arthur Ewen and Bon Thompson teamed up to show 3-D slides and teach us how to identify ferns, Sue Taylor taught us about the ecology of coastal heathlands and Reg Johnson gave a very entertaining talk on the relationship between flowers and birds. Our Members Night produced some interesting and varied slides and Laurie Norman made us all much more aware of the problems faced in the management of the Gippsland Lakes.

Our excursions have been just as varied with Loch Sport Field Nats. showing us some of their territory, visits to our old favourites; Mt. Worth State Park and Morwell National Park, seeing giant earth worms in the flesh, a boat trip to Wilsons Promontory and a bus trip to the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

Once again, we had a wonderful Christmas Party at "Bundilla", our very grateful thanks to Andy and Kath Ringin, as well as all the others who helped out on the day.

We were also very pleased to be the guests of Bairnsdale FNC for their camp at Gelantipy, it was certainly a very welcome change from Licola and, rest assured, we have not given up our search for alternative venues that don't cost the earth.

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President's Report.....cont.

Mrs. Bon Thompson, our erstwhile Conservation Co-ordinator, scored a major coup in succeeding in organising and leading a deputation to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment to express the concerns of various local community and government organisations on the issue of re-afforestation of the Strzleckis. Bon, with the assistance of Mr. Ollie Thompson and Assistant Conservation Co-ordinator, Mr. Jim Blucher, has worked unceasingly once again in completing many submissions, making many representations on behalf of our Club and doing lots of "P.R." jobs in providing conservation information to various organisations. Ollie was re-elected to a second term on the Land Protection Advisory Committee and Jim was elected to the Forest Management Advisory Committee. My thanks to all of you.

I also wish to thank our three Vice-Presidents, our Treasurer for stepping in for one year, our Publicity Officer, Magazine Editors, all the people involved in producing, collating, labelling and mailing of the Magazine, our Librarian, all my fellow Committee Members and all the people who help out at meetings from month to month. Of course, a very big thank you to our Secretary Miss Barbara Nielsen and Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Wendy Savage. Barbara has shown herself to be a great organiser which has been of tremendous assistance to me.

Finally, as my term as President draws to a close, I would just like to say thank you for all the help and encouragement I have received over the last five years. It has been a most enjoyable, though at times hectic, time and it has been very pleasing to see some younger people take a keen interest in our Club and its activities. However, I feel it is time for a change, both for me and the Club and I would like to wish the Club, and our new President, every success for 1991 and beyond.

Jane Purbrick,
President.

.../10

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 20/2/91

8 members present. 3 Apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Club Equipment. O. Thompson further investigated prices including stand and magazines. Recommend Leisgang projector 0250, has automatic focus and spare lamp. Pair of magazines @11.95 and stand 059. Put notice of motion in 'Naturalist' to purchas this if an equipment officer can be found. Ask for secondhand stand.

Notice of motion: The Committee recommends that providing the Club can appoint an Equipment Officer, a projector, magazines and stand be purchased at the approximate cost of $320. W.Savage/H. O'Reilly.

2. Business Meeting Night. YMCA rooms are available so recommend to AGM that we meet on Monday nights.

3. Nominations for Office Bearers. Forms in Feb. 'Naturalist'.

4. Min. of Education - price increase for Ed. Centre hire is from $10 to $13.

5. Plant list for Lowarry section of Princes Hwy. B.Thompson made contact and J.Brookes is to provide more detailed plant lists.

Finance: Balance: Cheque Account $ 749.03
Investment Account $2300.04
Conservation Account $ 497.59

General Business:

1. January Campout 1992. Suggest 'The Blue Duck' at Angler's Rest near Omeo - as members' opinion at GM.

2. Gifts for Guest Speakers. S'c. recommends more metal kanagroos and emus, 12 of each costing $30.

3. Editor. Will need to be replaced later in the year.

4. Baw Baw Frog. DC&E call for submissions confirming or contradicting the recommendation that it be included in the Flora and Fauna Guarantee List. Refer to K.Harris and E. Lyndon.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:
Prepared list of plants for roadside area on Gormandale/ Willung Rd. to forward to Sue Taylor. DCE Yarram, to add to their computer program in the hope that the area will be preserved.

Completed plant list for Lot 213A Parish of Rosedale. This is a Crown Allotment with 135 species of which 18 are orchids. It is a representative area of the bushland of this general area before plantations.

.../11

Report on Business Meeting (Conservation Co-ordinator's Report).....cont.

Received request from G.MacIntyre of Rosedale council to check plant list of the shire.

Prepared Draft submission to L.C.C. on proposed recommendations for Rivers and Streams.

Have received recording sheets, etc. to continue recording data for Weed Control Monitoring Project at Callignee.

Have forwarded to Shire of Traralgon and SECV results of monitoring Traralgon South Flora Reserve after hot fire in 1984.

Next Meeting: 20th. March 1991 at 7.30 pm. YMCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: Iris Peterson & Pat Delahay.
Friday 22nd. March, 1991.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W.Savage 056 343659	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D.Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month. Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F.Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville	8.00.pm on third Friday each month at CWA Hall, Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Margaret Wentworth
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Traralgon 3844

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 328 APRIL, 1991

LVFNC INC.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Friday 26th April at 7.30 pm

Speaker: Bruce Fuhrer on "Fungi".

Excursion: Saturday 27th April. Excursion to Glen Nayook. Meet at 10am outside Neerim South Primary School.

BIRD GROUP.

Excursion: M6nday 6th May 1991
Bird Observing at Wirilda (A.B.C. count).
Meet 10am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Yallourn North Road.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

April 21st: Tree Planting- 10.00am onwards; follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Tebb Tce.

May 19th: Tree Planting-We planted approx. 1600 seedlings of various types last winter and our aim is to repeat this effort. Your help would be especially appreciated.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph. (056) 231563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fouth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St. Morwell.

VICTORIAN FNC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CAMPOUT AT HOWMANS GAP MARCH 1991.

The 6 hour drive to Falls Creek was long and tiring after a day at work, and most of it was done after dark which was a shame to miss beautiful scenery, although the mountains by moonlight were spectacular.

Despite arriving after midnight we were up early to put our names on the lists of activities organized for the next two days.

On Saturday we were lucky to get a place on the full day bush walk to Mt. Nelse conducted by an experienced bush-walker from the Boarder Bush walking Club. We started off from the Rocky Valley Storage Dam and walked along windy little rocky tracks up Heathy Spur until eventually we reached Edmonsons Hut for lunch. Although we set off in brilliant sunshine wearing shorts we were soon wearing all our winter gear and feeling the biting wind and rain we'd been warned about, so there were few opportunities to stop and poke around. It was too late in the season for most of the wildflowers, but "The Alps in Flower" by I. R. Mc Camm which we carried was full of clear pictures of what we'd missed, there were occasional flowers on the Alpine Mintbush, Prostanthera cuneata and there were attractive green and red berries on the Snow Beard-heath, Leucopogon montanus. Mountain geutiaus, Gentianella diemensis were quite wide-spread, especally on the heights of Mt. Nelse, which was the summit of our 12km round trip.

The evening meal was followed by one of the best slide shows and talks I have attended, by Arthur Hall of the North Eastern FNC. His subject was spiders and insects and we were given the benefit of a lifetime of keen observation, love and enthusiasm for his topic and a prodigious memory. His informative and amusing anecdotes made his slides come to life. I was surprised to discover that this wasn't his only area of expertise as birds and botany were his first loves.

We chose a botany excursion to the Ruined Castle lead by Helen Curtis of the North Eastern FNC on Sunday. All members of our small group were keen to look long and closely at all the new plants at each of our numerous stops. We travelled up a back road to Falls Creek and the vegetation gradually changed from the tall dense stands of Alpine Ash, through Snow gums to the heaths and grasses of the high plains. Our leader was well familiar with the alpine plants and I was able to find a large Number of the plants listed in my new book, but once again most had spent flowers or seed pods. The senecios provided splashes of yellow with the familiar firewood groundsel Senecio linearifolius, the smaller variable groundsel S. lautus and the alpine groundsel S. pectinatus which was carpeting the edges of a beautiful mountain stream. There were many helichrysums still flowering although mainly past their prime and a pretty little purple flowering brachyscombe B. rigidula appeared amongst the rocks.

..../2

VICTORIAN FNC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CAMPOUT AT HOWMANS GAP MARCH 1991.....cont.

The Ruined Castle provided a warm and sheltered lunch spot as although the day was clear and sunny, a chill breeze blew across the exposed plains. This is a fascinating basalt rock formation of tessellated hexagonal tubes falling away at the edges to form a rubble of hexagonal prisms which provided perfect seats. We took the views of the surrounding alps from Mt. McKay (1842m) then took another slow boat home via Pretty Valley.

The evening's slides were presented by Jan Hall who has a superb knowledge of the Alpine areas and who runs Yarrawonga Native Plant Nursery which sells only native plants and is making a great contribution to introducing alpine plants into gardens. Her slides showed each of the alpine plants in it's full flowering glory, which were taken on numerous trips into the mountains. She leads wildflower walks into the Bogong and Botham areas, and makes special trips to capture indvidual flowerings such as the Alpine Marsh Marigold, Caltha intraloba flowering underwater. It rushes into flower as soon as the snow starts to melt and can even be fertilized underwater. She described the charateristics of alpine heath plants which enable them to survive in their harsh enviroment. Leaves maybe small, stem clasping, hard or rough to reduce the surface exposed to biting winds. Woody plants hug the rocks creeping over their surface in order to gain the solar energy collected by the rock. The peaty bogs support their own plant communities of low growing and often tiny plants and flowers and these slides were taken from above to capture their miniature beauty. Once again I was struck by the beauty of the many flowers we'd missed, however the magnificence of the views remained, and snow gums are always beautiful with their lovely colours and shapes.

This Annual campout was attended by over 100 Field Naturalists from 19 Victorian Clubs, predominantly from Western Clubs as far away as Portland. The National Fitness Camp at Howmans Gap where we stayed is new and plush and the accommodation was extremely comfortable with excellent meals provided. Everyone was friendly and cheerful and our common interests in natural history and being in the bush made us a compatible group, and contributed to a most enjoyable weekend.

Wendy Savage.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE.

Just a reminder that subscriptions were due by MARCH 31st, payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825.

NATURALIST $10. FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.

Subscriptions to Club includes "Naturalist".

Thank you.

PLANS FOR THE GIPPSLAND LAKES.

Talk by Mr Laurie Norman. February 22nd 1991.

Mr Norman is the Executive Officer of the Gippsland Lakes Consultative Committee, which was set up by the then Minster of Conservation Forests and Lands (Mrs Kirner) to advise her on matters relating to the Gippsland Lakes. The Committee produced the brochure "The Gippsland Lakes need Protection", which invited comments from the public. The Committee also produced "Draft Gippsland Lakes Management Plan", a final plan will be published after further discussion on the Draft Plan.

Mr Norman had brought along several copies of the above publications also copies of a discussion paper "Gippsland Lakes Algal Bloom Seminar" held at Bairnsdale in 1988.

We were told about the Gippsland Lakes area which extends from Warragul in the west to Lakes Entrance in the east. There are diverse land uses, including Forestry, Industrial Areas, Urban Areas, Farming and Recreation. The planning team have made many recommendations. Most important is to create awareness and treat issues as a whole and not just as single issues. Some of the problems were discussed under headings:-

ALGAL BLOOM

Algal blooms may have occured in Gippsland Lakes as early as last century and there is documentation of blooms in 1971, 1974 and 1987-88.The 1987-88 algal bloom covered large areas of Lake King and Lake Victoria. Large areas of the Lakes were covered with a thick green scum which was foul smelling. The algae produces Hydrogen Sulphide gas which is toxic, many fish were killed as a result of low oxygen levels. The algae responsible for this bloom was identified as Nodularia spumigena. It was thought that Nodularia required water temperatures of 18-20 degrees C. to germinate, but it was found to germinate in winter when water temperatures were 8 degrees C. The algae has not appeared this year, but no reason could be given for this. The algae blooms because of an increase in nutrients in the water, especially phosphates. This increase can be due to inputs of organic matter, soil erosion, urban runoff and household detergents in general use. The community at large needs to understand algae and its growth and effects. An effort should be made to reduce the amounts of materials which could help the algae to bloom.

SALINITY

One of the big problems of Gippsland Lakes is Salinity. The direct effects are depletion of shoreline vegetation, wetland habitats are altered due to vegetation changes. Increase salinity has caused dieback of the Common Reed Phragmites australis which helps in erosion control of Lake edges, especially in Lake Wellington.

.../3

Plans for the Gippsland Lakes cont...

FISH RESOURCES

The life cycle of fish and diseases must be understood. The number of licences for professional fisherman will be reduced over time and anatcur fisherman need education re the reasons for minimum fish size. We were told that some fisherman mince up undersize fish to avoid prosecution, thus limiting the numbers of fish able to breed.

FLORA AND FAUNA CONSERVATION

The Gippsland Lakes catchment contains a wide variety of habitats from alpine herbfields to coastal heaths and salt flats, each supporting a wide variety of Flora and Fauna. The diversity of species must be maintained. The wetland areas are reduced over time if species are not maintained. Public lands need to be preserved and private land purchased to be used as wetland. Dry land salting is also a great problem. Large areas of once productive land are reduced to nothing as a result of the salt problem.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

The Lakes area is a popular holiday resort, with Fishing, Boating, Swimming, as some of the activities. The Government spent a large sum of money on the advertising campaign for Gippsland Lakes. Boats using the Lakes should have pump out facilities for sewage, (there is only one facility at present). This is another source of nutrient for the algae. Should visitors be directed to certain areas and kept out of other areas?.

RIVER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The outfall sewer will deny water from the Lakes system, this is a controversial subject. The river flows must be controlled so that enough fresh water flows to the lakes.

FLOOD PLAIN DEVELPMENT

These areas flood if only every 100 years and the resulting devastation is detrimental. It was stated that of all the rivers feeding the lakes the Latrobe River is the most used, most abused and the most polluted. Landcare groups can help in management of areas.

Forestry activities should be controlled. Run off from urban areas must be controlled as this is a source of phoshates eg washing machine detergents, household cleaners ect... We were told of a talk to be given in Bairnsdale during Heritage Week April 17th. This is in an effort to inform the public so that some judgements can be made. Implementing the plan is the difficulty. The community must be made aware of the problems and can take part in activities such as tree planting. Rubbish can be taken home after picnic outings, and people be encouraged to be interested in the lakes area and its problems.

.../4

Plans for the Gippsland Lakes cont....

Mr Norman answered a variety of questions from the interested audience. Our President Jane presented Mr Norman with a small gift in appreciation. The usual supper and talk ended another informative evening.

Lorna Long.

My thanks to Mr Norman for making alterations to the article before printing.

FIELD EXCURSION

PLANNING FOR THE GIPPSLAND LAKES

Members met at the Department of Conservation & Environment Depot in Sale. Mr Ken Ashton assistant regional Manager introduced Miss Eleisha Berkin of the Traralgon DC & E office and also Mr & Mrs Lockie Wilkinson of Traralgon, Environmental Officer for Ministry of Planning and Housing (Gippsland Region) to us.

Miss Berkin then gave us a short talk on the planning of the Gippsland Lakes Strategy, which was a follow on from the Friday night speaker Mr Laurie Norman (DC & E). Before heading off, we were told the excursion had been divided into four sections, the first was to-:

SALE COMMON

Members walked towards the bird-hide situated on an island in a wetland area which is accessible only by a wooden foot-bridge. From this hide we viewed Little Cormonrants, Grey Teal, Coots, Black Swans, Large Egret, Yellow-billed Spoonbill also saw a Swamphen building her nest. Nesting boxes have been attached to dead tree stumps to encourage birds to breed. Crossing the bridge we noticed a patch of Yellow Water-lilies Nymphaea sp. Upon returning to the cars Eleisha explained the Gippsland Lakes Strategy which was formed in 1988. The Lakes are a significant area, and the planning was around Lake Wellinton about 6000 hectares. To register public interest, public consultation is required. Other various issues such as hunting, fishing, boating and water activities were discussed. The major issue is the management, education and recreation. The final plan is expected to be published in December 1991 or early next year. Members asked a variety of questions regarding private land, shooting and flooding.

LAKE COLEMAN

The following section on Lake Coleman is by courtesy of Mr Ken Ashton.

"Surface area of 2200 hectares and a natural catchment of only 11000 hectares.

..../5

Planning for the Gippsland Lakes cont....

Discharges have occurred since the early 1960's with outflows averaging 22 ML/day. This increased to a maximum of 74/ ML/day during 1974/75 but dropped to 36/ML/day in 1982/83 and are now averaging 31 ML/day. APH has been the single largest contributor but in the early 80's this contribution dropped to 10 ML/day and is currently 15 ML/day or 47% of total discharge.

High colour association with lignins is the most significant feature. Dutson is a simple but most effective means of treatment, when comparing water quality at the inlet and outlet the following occurs. Solids and BOD decrease by a factor of 10-20 E Coli decreases dramatically 10 (6) to 10 (3) /100 ML. Ph increased but is now dropping colour however has increased by a factor of 2.6 and Total Dissolved Salts have increased by 1.9. The potential evaporation is nearly twice the lake volume. Prior to Dutson Inflows the Lake would dry up in most summers and would remain dry over winter one year in three. Stock regularly grazed the area.

The hydrology of the area changed drastically with the excavation of two channels which established a permanent link between Coleman and Lake Wellington. Flooding over the barrier from Lake Wellington was once fairly regular occurrence (8 years out of 12).

SALINITY:- originally this varied widely dependent on the length of time since the last flood. In August 1974 it was 3.3 g.l rising to a maximum of 54 g.l in Jan 1970. Lake Wellington averages from a low of 2.7 g.l in October to 8.5 g.l in April. Since the opening in 1980 this has brought brackish water into the lake. This exposed the lake to large salt imputs which have been partly offset by an increase in flow from Duston Downs.

BIOLOGICAL FACTORS:- studies in 1986-87 found a much greater abundance and species richness of aquatic invertebrates and slightly improved populations of fish and birds. These improvements are possibly due to moderated salinity and water level fluctuations, dilution of pollutants and an improvement in quality of discharge. Species richness however is still depressed.

COLOUR:- the effulent discharged from Dutson Downs is the major colour imput into Lake Coleman. From 1969 to 78 the colour averaged 5600 pt-Co units. Lake Wellington by comparison had a colour level in 1976 of on 30 pt-Co units. The maximum measured has been 19000 pt-Co units in March 1973. In March 1981 the colour of Lake Coleman was only 1730 pt-Co units due to the dilution with the Wellington Waters. Although there has been a considerable reduction in colur in the 1980's the Lake is still intensely coloured in comparison to natural water bodies.
Ref: Environmental Effects of Dutson Downs waste Water on Lake Coleman DP Robinson SRS 88/006. Environment Protection Authority".

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Planning for the Gippsland Lakes cont....

GOLDEN BEACH- Lunch and the glorious sea!! .

NINETY MILE BEACH - SUBDIVISIONS

We inspected the sub-division on the Ninety mile beach and Mr. Wilkinson explained the Rosedale Planning Scheme in the Gippsland Lakes Strategy. As this area was sub-divided many years before guidelines were laid down. Today under present stringent guidelines haphazard small residential block sub-division is not consistent with the accepted principles of rural planning unless the developer can prove that the land is stable and the septic service viable.

OCEAN OUTFALL CONSTRUCTION SITE

We viewed the area where the pipe is coming through from Dutson and in the distance could see the machinery at work, unfortunately to far away for us to inspect. Ken took us into the works area by the beach and it was explained to us by one of the staff how the pipework would progress along the sea-bed to offshore (we also saw diagrams of the completed construction). Before leaving the area, an official from the LVWSB came along and gave us a comprehensive talk on the construction of the whole project and stated that this was entirely different to any ocean outfall in the world.

Mr Ashton and colleagues were thanked by Ollie Thompson on behalf of the Club for such a comprehensive excursion.

Jim Wall

For further reading:- "Gippsland Lakes Strategy" DC & E.

A quick note to say hello and introduce myself as the new editor of the magazine. I have lived in the Valley for a large part of my life and since returning from Queensland I am aware of the dramatic changes that have occured here. So like other members I am concerned and committed to conservation not just here in the Valley but world wide. Hopefully by generating awareness and concern, we can encourage others to care for the enviroment and preserve our heritage which is unique. I look forward to many articles from you all...how else is my typing going to improve? (its in your hands). Many thanks from all the members of the LVFNC to Margaret and we wish her a happy and safe time with her new baby.

Anne Bailey

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 20/3/91

8 members present. 3 Apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of interest):

1. Yallourn North burnt bush. P. Rayment will follow up and tell him plant list is availabe if required.

2. Equipment Officer has been found-Julie Parker. Purchase of equipment to be put to General Meeting.

3. Nominations for Office Bearers: P. Rayment-President
J. Purbrick-1st Vice Pres.
W. Savage-Asst. Secretary.
Treasurer still outstanding:this is a 2 year term, not 1 year as stated in January BH minutes.

4. Editor for "Naturalist". Anne Bailey will start-in April.

Finance: Balance: Cheque Account $683.43
Investment Acc. $2399.94
Conservation Acc. $662.33

General Business:

1. Asst. Secretary away April-June G Trainor will replace for first 2 months.

2. January Campout 1992. Blue Duck, Anglers Rest near Omeo. Seek indication of members interested for next Australia Day weekend.

3. Heather Jory of DCE-Jim Blucher(1st and 4th April). Heather was wishing a meeting with interested members about Western Gippsland Lakes and Ninety Mile Beach.

Conservation Coordinator's Report:

Rang LCC re scenic value of Traralgon Creek. Then forwarded submission on Rivers and Streams. Shire of Traralgon to also send submission.

Four members carried out recording of quadrats in Blackberry Project ex Monash University. Recording sheets forwarded to Yarram DCE.

Forwarded to Brian Eddy, SECV,copy of results of monitoring' Traralgon South Reserve from fire in 1984 to 1990. Also included plant lists of West Gully, Yallourn North, before and after fuel reduction burn as requested.

Had visit from DCE Officers to discuss walking tracks in proposed Flora and Fauna Reserve at Traralgon South. SECV have not transferred their blocks of land in this reserve to DCE.

..../8

Report of the Business Meeting (Conservation Co-ordinator's Report)....cont.

O. Thompson attended two meetings of the Forest Management Area Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting: 24th April 1991. 7:30, YHCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: Norma Rees,
Pe[illegible]

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

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L. FNC INC.

COMING EVENTS.

Meeting: Friday 24th May at 7.30pm

Speaker: David Langmore. Current Work of the L.V.R.C in the Valley.

Excursion: Saturday 25th May. To leave from back of L.V.R.C offices Traralgon 10.00 a.m. Transport provided by L.V.R.C.

BIRD GROUP.

Excursion: Monday 3rd June.
Bird observing at "Shiloh", property of Martin and Sue Ryswick, Old Joe's rd, Heyfield.
Meet 10 am at Lions Park Heyfield.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

June 16th Tree Planting- 10.00am onwards; follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Tebb Tce. Your help would be especially appreciated.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph. (056) 231563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St, Morwell.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 329 MAY 1991

SUMMER CAMPOUT AT GELANTIPY

25-28 January, 1991

Approximately 25 LVFN members and friends converged on Karoonda Park, near Gelantipy on the Australia Day weekend, to join members of the Bairnsdale and Sale clubs for botany and bird-observing, as well as much pleasant socializing. Our leader, James Turner from the Bairnsdale Club had planned a very diverse range of excursions in this magnificent region of East Gippsland.

SATURDAY MORNING EXCURSION: TULLOCH ARD AND THE SNOWY RIVER NATIONAL PARK.

On Saturday morning we drove out over the Tulloch Ard road through grassland country with occasional farm houses. Here one could glimpse magnificent views of the distant ranges east of the Snowy River, each blue range overlapping the next as far as the horizon. This was usually framed in isolated stands of eucalypt or blackwood. Then we entered the bush and each turn of the compass revealed different types of vegetation many logging tracks led off this road which indicated the wealth of timber being extracted.

On damp cool sheltered forest slopes we found wonderful stands of eucalyptus with understory of Acacia melanoxylon and dealbata, Pimelia axiflora(Bootlace Bush.), Proskanthera lasianthos(Christmas Bush.), which must have been a wonderful sight a few weeks back, Bedfordia arborescens(Blanket Leaf.), Coprosma quadrifida(Prickly Currant Bush.), Pomaderis(Hazel.) and various Pittosporums, treeferns ect. Along the way grew the sweet smelling Fireweeds Senecio linearifolius and on the drier slopes grew leptospermum, callistemon and acacias.

James led us to various botanical specimens of great interest such as the rare Prostanthera walteri growing on the roadside in a densely shaded area. It had a pale green almost inconspicuous corolla with purple streaks. It is known as the Monkey Mint Bush and is said to be the largest of our species, it is confined to sub-alpine areas.

We enjoyed finding things for ourselves, especially rewarding was our walk after morning tea down the Betts Track, which goes down to the Snowy River. Here we saw magnificient stands of Eucalyptus regnans the sassifras Atherosperma muschatum, this quite cone-shaped tree made parts of the bush look park-like. There was also the Black Olive Berry Elaeocarpus holopetalus complete with its berries and the unusual(to us) Eastern Bitter Bush Adriana glabrata which does not grow west of the Tambo River. The one seen on Betts Track had leaves that were deeply lobed and irregularly toothed, shiny green on top but quite matt-like underneath, it was not in bloom.

On our return journey we stopped to explore a very nutrient deficient area where the Forked Sundew grew Drosena binata.

..../1

Summer Campout at Gelantipy 25-28 January, 1991. cont....

These grew like little red Y's across the damp area, their upper arms covered in sensitive hairs which help supplement their diet by catching stray insects. Another plant growing here was Acacia obtusifolia which had pale yellow catkins consisting of three flowers to each sparsely set whorl. We stopped to see the Fan Ferns, Sticherus flabellata and the Pouched Coral Fern Gleichenia circinnata on the roadside.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON EXCURSION: LITTLE RIVER GORGE AREA.

On Saturday afternoon our convoy first drove to the Little River Falls below which the river commences its wild race down many smaller falls. Later we drove and walked to a look-out over the deep gorge. On the canyon walls opposite one could pick out the small tributary Wulgulmerang Creek falling in a long thin scarf off the top of the canyon wall tumbling to a rock fall, disappearing from sight to emerge near the floor of the gorge to join the Little River. On the far ledges white guano indicated the perching or nesting spots for many birds - possibly raptors.

SUNDAY EXCURSION: ROCKY PLAIN AND EMU PLAIN AREA.

On Sunday James led us north, turning of the Jindabyne Road onto the Boyong Road. It was surprisingly well-surfaced, we enjoyed morning tea in a grassy valley under Candelbacks, Eucalyptus rubra and Snow Gums, Eucalyptus pauciflora. Next a stop to see Banksia canei a very beautiful small shrub with creamy yellow styles with pale grey tips, the new seed pods also pale and grey. It was wonderful to see such beauty in an arid rocky bank. An added bonus here was the grand views north to the Cobberas, the Asses Ears and across the NSW boarder and Mt. Pilot and the Snowy Range. At this altitude the trees were mainly Snow Gums, Eucalyptus pauciflora. Lunch was enjoyed in a delightful mountain meadow in the shade of the Snow Gums, then we drove further North and West to the Rocky Plains. These are quite marshy, covered in heaths and sedges with surounding rocky hills of larger trees. There were many surprises for us such as the small orchid Parsons Bands, Eriochilus cucullatus many species of the willow-herb, Epilobium and one glorious bog where small islands of Sphagnum moss about a foot high arose from the water. We watched a steady stream of ants crossing on a grass straw from one island to the next. They looked like an aerial view of cars crossing a bridge. In the midst of all this ant "busyness" a small gecho plummeted from a cushion of sedge into the water and swam to a more secluded spot. In the shallow parts of this paradise grew small Epilobium (willow herbs) and small alpine plants such as Fairies Aprons, Utricularia dichotoma. These minute herbs are unique in that they have submerged bladders which catch insects to supplement their food supply.

On our way home we stopped in a dry area for afternoon tea and were entertained by the Flame Robin, Petroica phoenicea, flitting about in the candlebarks. Many cockatoo's flew

..../2

Summer Campout at Gelantipy 25-28 January, 1991. cont....

overhead- the Sulphur crested as well as the Yellow tailed black. Our last stop for the day was Emu Plains another delightful mountain meadow. Here some of us enjoyed the beauty of an enormous ancient Mountain Gum, Eucalyptus dalrympleana or was it Eucalyptus rubida? (They are so similar).

The rest of this interesting article will be concluded in the June edition of the Naturalist.

THE WALK THROUGH EDWARD HUNTER RESERVE FOR ELDERLY CITIZENS WEEK.

The Moe City Council invited the Club to send two representatives to help with identification of flora and fauna on a bush walk through the Edward Hunter Reserve on the 16th of April. Lorna Long and Iris Peterson represented the club.

Lorna and I went to the Reserve to help lead elderly citizens thru the park for one of the elderly citizens week projects. About 20 people were there, including the Major of Moe, Pam Petschack(org.) and Dlsie Sambell(Rep. Board of Management). We set off, but within minutes members of the recently formed walking group (which was a good ½ of our party)set a good pace and were not sighted again until we returned. Others walked steadily and were pleased with the lovely bush setting. Only two Banksia Sp. were out and we pointed out several other plants and trees not in flower, but it was the general atmosphere of the area that captured their imagination. They were pleased that the area was a reserve and so well managed. It was a perfect morning and we all enjoyed the walk which ended with a sausage, egg and bacon and coffee breakfast. Every one was thanked for a project well planned and organized. Both Lorna and I were pleased to have participated on behalf of the Club.

Lorna Long & Iris Peterson.

"IN THE GARDEN". 6th. APRIL. 1991

In the garden at this time of the year it is usual to see a rolled-up leaf suspended in a spider web. In this case, it was a snail shell. Working in the area later in the day, I accidentally broke the web, leaving the shell spinning at the end of a single strand. The next moring, the shell was in the centre of a new web. Now, some days later, greenery and a piece of thistledown have been woven into the web.

Dulcie Sambell.

..../3

THE MAGPIE FAMILY.

I have been much entertained by a family of four magpies. The two children are so alike in every way that I cannot tell them apart - but sometimes two (parent and child) visit, whether it is always the same child I do not know, so will assume that it is.

Father, after becoming very tame indeed, through being fed through the open window, visited and as soon as the son could fly he came, or was brought, to the window and called for food as soon as I held up anything edible. He came boldly, either alone or with a parent and as soon as I approached began the familiar food call, "Care! Care!. Care!" and then took the food from my hand. All was well until he began to take food from under his fathers beak, Then he was sharply pecked for such presumption. Soon he learned to be properly respectful and waited a couple of feet away until his father flew off with his share, then flew down for his.

He is now almost indistinguishable from his father. They are equals and are recognizable, in fact, now the only way to keep the peace is to hold a piece of food in each hand and feed them together. Then he began to train me. If I was short of meat scraps, bread or stale cake, and gave them fruit he looked at it in disgust and threw it on the ground at once. If I persist with a second piece he gives my fingertip a sharp (but not painfull) little peck.

He has evidently decided to train me now!.

Jean Galbraith.

THE ENJOYMENT OF NATIVE BIRDS.

We have always loved the thrushes and their liquid notes and lilting flight. This month a pair built a nest under the veranda where we walk in from the carport and we felt privileged that they trusted us so much. They reared three babies and they flew on Saturday, so we have been able to enjoy the whole process from start to finish. Don can whistle like a thrush -- and they answer and when the young ones were up to making little piping calls, they would answer his whistle from the nest!. We've had so much pleasure from the family. We also have the blue wrens nesting by the chimney and two babies hatched. Two other males are helping the parents bring them up and now they are established "Jenny" is back on the nest again with more eggs. The wrens are very tame and take food from our fingers and especially love cooked chicken skin. We also feed Kookaburras when we have some scraps - we are amazed at the amount and size of bone they can handle. At the moment we only have three of the usual four visiting, so maybe the other one is nesting.

This is part of a letter received by Jean Galbraith from her cousin and has been printed with Heather Galbraiths kind permission. Thank -you.

..../4

REPORT TO LVFNC INC. OF OVERBURDEN REHABILITATION.

Group meeting held at SECV Visitors Reception Centre Morwell at 10.00am on Wednesday 17th of April 1991.

re Morwell Open Cut Western Dump: The aim during 1990-91 season is to "grass" 45Ha, already 41Ha are prepared. (During last year 39Ha was sown). Some very preliminary points were raised about the proposed amphitheatre.

re Yallourn Open Cut: Work has commenced on site preparation for planting trees on the Western end of the internal dump - initially about 30Ha are to be used as a trial, ie. some 30,000 plus trees. The aim is to produce saw logs part of a dual project - to rehabilitate the area and reduce green house gases!.

re Yallourn North Extension Open Cut: Recent work has rendered the site "fire safe" by a combination of four methods:-

- *some of the site has a sprinkler system,
- *the bottom of the cut is either flooded, or covered by a small internal overburden dump.
- *the remaining batters have been covered with clay and some top soil and sown-down.

re Yallourn Master Plan Strategy: Work on this document is proceeding and may be ready for release to the next meeting.

It is intended that the group members make a comprehensive inspection of the Yallourn Open Cut in the near future.

F J Blucher
Delegate.

THE BLACK ROBIN.

A film shown at LVFNC meeting on 22nd of March, 1991.

Way out in the Pacific Ocean, the Chatham Islands are one of the most remote parts of New Zealand. This group of islands is 800 km east of New Zealand, and for thousands of years were home to a small songbird called the Black Robin.

On one of these islands, Little Mangere, the Black Robin lived in the quiet depths of the forest where the deep volcanic soils supported a rich habitat for birdlife despite the often bleak weather conditions in the path of the Roaring Forties. In fact, there was so much food that the Black Robin hardly needed to fly.

The first threat to the Black Robin came from the early hunters and gatherers from N.Z. who found the island a rich source of food, but this disturbance was minor compared to the invasion by Europeans in the last 200 years..

..../5

The Black Robin cont....

Farmers burnt the forest to create pasture for their sheep and cattle, while feral cats hunted the native birds. Within 50 years almost all the forest had been destroyed, and for the next 100 years a small population of Black Robins lived in a patch of forest perched high on a rocky cliff. The Black Robin population in this postage stamp piece of forest was no more than 20 by the 1970s, and throughout the other islands in the Chatham Island group, similar practices had resulted in the Black Robins dying out completely.
The further clearing of the edges of this small area of forest on Little Mangere to build a helicopter pad in the early 70s saw the Black Robin population drop to seven. It was almost extinct and the rarest bird in the world.

In 1976, the N.Z. Wildlife Service began a project to save the Black Robin, and for the next twelve years, Don Merton headed the team attempting this feat.
The plan was to establish a new colony of Black Robins on nearby Mangere Island where the small patch of forest was in a nature reserve. "Red" was the first Black Robin caught using fine netting, a blackened N.Z. robin and some fat mealworms as bait. He was transported in a special box on Don's back down the sheer cliff to a waiting boat and then three kilometers across the treacherous sea to Mangere Island. Don waited anxiously to see how Red survived his ordeal and was delighted when he flew out and claimed the new territory for himself. More robins were laboriously transferred to Mangere Island until there were two pairs which both nested and began raising chicks.

For four years the birds coped on their own, but the population did not grow as hoped. Each pair was producing only one chick each season, and the older birds were dying. In 1980 the population was only five. In September 1980, Don returned to try a daring new plan to use another bird, the Warbler, on Mangere as foster parents to hatch Black Robin eggs in the hope that the Black Robins would nest again when the first clutch was lost. This was the first foster program in the world with a small songbird nesting in the wild.

The Warblers accepted the eggs and the Black Robins did nest again, but the Warblers coulldn't provide enough food for the chicks and the population didn't grow as hoped. Undaunted, Don tried another innovative idea in 1981. He used the Chatham Island Tomtit on South-east Island to foster Black Robin eggs. This time it was a success and the Black Robins which the Tomtits raised to independence were returned to Mangere Island.

In 1983, it was decide to move the Black Robin population to South-east Island with its 100 hectares of forest. The five hectare forest on Mangere Island could not support the growing population of Black Robins, so for the first time in 100 years there were Black Robins living on South-east Island.

:::/6

The Black Robin cont....

The population slowly increased while Don coped with the problem of Black Robins that thought they were Tomtits - singing Tomtit songs, cavorting with Tomtits and refusing to pair with Black Robins. By returning the chicks to a Black Robin nest for the final fledgling days, this problem was overcome. By the end of 1986 there were 47 Black Robins on South-east Island with nine breeding pairs. It was now time for Don Merton and his skilled and dedicated team to leave it to the Black Robins.

FOOTNOTE: While listening to "Australia All Over" 3LO on Sunday March 24th I heard that Victoria's emblem, The Helmeted Honeyeater, is also a rare and endagered species. There are 60 Helmeted Honeyeaters left in the wild and 25 in captivity at Healesville Sanctuary. The "Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeaters" group is working with farmers in the Yellingbo area of the Yarra Valley to revegetate areas and to raise public awareness of the issue in the local community.

Pam Petschack.

YINBERRIE HILLS -- GOULDIAN FINCHES AND THE MT TODD GOLD PROJECT.

A very large gold mine is currently being planned for the Yinberrie Hills area near Katherine, in the Top End of the N.T. Unfortunately, the same area is home to one of only two large breeding populations of wild Gouldian Finches known in the world. If the mine goes ahead there is a definite possibility that it will endager the species survival in the wild. Once widely spread across northern Australia, the Gouldian has declined dramatically in numbers during this century, and is now officially recognised as an Endangered species. The birds only nest in unburnt tree hollows of Salmon Gum Eucalyptus tintinnans and have a specialised diet, eating seeds of Sorghum and a few other grasses. The proposed gold mine is a project of the Mt Todd Joint Ventures (MTJV), who are headed by Billiton Australia Gold, a subsidiary of Shell. The mine site is on the eastern boundary of the Gouldian Finch habitat, only two sites have been found where the finches breed in substantial numbers. The open pit and water-storage dam will permanently destroy 2.5% of this habitat. Of course there are a large number of Gouldian Finches in captivity. However, I think that most people would be very unhappy with the knowledge that the species was extinct in the wild.
If you are concerned about the impact the Mt Todd Gold Project may have on the survival of the Finch there are a number of things that you can do:

..../7

Yinberrie hills - Gouldian Finches and the Mt Todd Gold Project cont....

* The company has to produce an Enviromental Impact Statement (EIS), which will try to justify how the mine can produce without having an impact on the Finch population. This will be released for a period of public comment, probably in April or May, and it is vital that as many submissions as possible are received. If you contact us, we will ensure that you receive a copy of the EIS as soon as it is released.
* In the meantime, write to Shell expressing your concern that the mine wil have an adverse impact on the Gouldian Finch population and asking them not to mine in the vicinity of the Yinberrie Hills.
* Measures to preserve the Gouldian Finch could be taken in the future by the Federal Government, which will soon enact legislation protecting threatened species. Write to the Federal Mininster for the Enviroment expressing support for the legislation and asking for immediate consideration to be given to the Gouldian Finch.
* Write to the Northern Territory Government, asking that the mine not be approved and full protection be given to the Gouldian Finch.

If you require any further information, let us know; we would also appreciate copies of any letters you may send.

Addresses:
Mr K. Gosper, Chairman, Shell Aust. Ltd. 140 Phillip st, Sydney 2000
Ms Ros Kelly, Minister for Enviroment, Parliament House, Canberra, 2600.
Mr M Perron, Chief Minister, PO Box 3146, Darwin, 0801.

This is a summary of an article printed by:
Threatened Species Network of the Northern Territory, Enviroment Centre NT, PO Box 2120 Darwin, NT 0801
(089) 811984 Fax 410387.

BAIRNSDALE AND DISTRICT FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Members might like to note forthcoming events held by the Bairnsdale Club:
Thursday 13 June at 8.pm: A Committee Meeting will be held at Isakson's home, 10 Cumming Street, Paynesville. All are welcome.
Friday 21st June at 8.pm: A General Meeting. Our Speaker will be Ian Lunt who is at present working on his thesis on grasses. His talk is titled "Grassland and Grassy Woodlands - Endangered Eco-Systems".

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REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 24/4/91

9 members present 3 Apologies.

Business arising from the minutes (of Interest)

1. Yallourn North burnt bush. D Francis of SECV has thanked club for work and interest. Moves are being made for management to be changed to local group. Ray Horton is contact person who regularly visits area and has noted some bird increase.

2. Treasurer. Vacancy not filled at AGM. K. Holywell not available N. O'Reilly will continue and serve first year of two year term. Thank-you Nora.
 Nominated B. Nielsen
 Seconded O. Thompson
 Appointment to be announced at Gen. Meeting.

3. July speaker. Kath Gosden on "Landcare". Excursion to Falls Creek and Glen Maggie will be checked nearer to July meeting.

4. Natural History Medallion. Elizabeth Turner declined and Margaret Potter accepted nomination as club representative on general committee.

5. January Campout 1992. Blue Duck, Anglers Rest to be booked. Firmer numbers of participants needed in Nov.

6. DCE re: representatives on Western Gippsland Lakes Wetlands Consultative Committee and similar committee for Ninety Mile Beach,
 Following a meeting with Heather Jory of DCE and club Special Business Meeting 15/4/91, L Long was nominated as rep. on Wetlands committee. No rep. appointed for Ninety Mile Beach committee but club will be available for consultation.

Finance: Balance: Cheque Account $886.48
Investment Acc. $2399.94
Conservation Acc. $662.33

General Business:

1. Re-scheduling of Business Meeting. Moved to Monday before the 4th Friday in the month except for January and December each year. Next Business Meeting 20th of May.

2. Callignee pines: DCE have cut down pines in own section. Unofficial request to be made to APM to consider removal in their area also.

Conservation Coordinators Report.

Five members inspected one of the three walks in the Traralgon Sth Forest Reserve and made suggestions for sites for public to observe vegetation ect. Seven members compiled census of Plants on unmade road in Willung area for Vic. Conservation

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Report on Business Meeting (Conservation Coordinators Report)....cont.

Trust so that area can be reserved by Rosedale Council. Contact person - Frankie MacLennan. 127 plants listed. Checked APM area reserved at Giffard of Zieria veronicea and reported to APM.
No response to Blackberry Project report.
J Blucher reported on SECV Overburden Rehabilitation Group meeting. Also reported that 10 members joined DCE trip to Lake Coleman and Wellington Park to look at salinity problems.

Next meeting: Monday 20th May 1991 7.30pm YMCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: Val Plant
Nora O'Reilly.

WORLD HERITAGE AREAS.

LORD HOWE ISLAND.

With an area of 1455 hectares, Lord Howe Island is one of the smallest areas ever included on the world heritage list on the basis of natural qualities. Officially the Lord Howe Island Group was inscribed on the list because of its exceptional natural scenery and its habitats containing endangered endemic species. The islands lie in the South Pacific Ocean 770klm northeast of Sydney at approximately the same latitude as Kempsey in northern NSW. The mountain features of Lord Howe Island are remnants of a large shield volcano which developed on the western edge of the Lord Howe Island Rise some 6.9 million years ago. The rise is an underwater plateau extending 2000 klm north-northwest from New Zealand.

The island enviroments offer a wide variety of conditions for plant growth patches of dry forest in the sheltered low-land areas, contrast strongly with the miniature cloud forest on the damp summit of Mt Gower where tiny mountain palms form a dense mix with mosses, ferns, orchids and may other endemic plants. Pride of place belongs to the birds, at least 130 species of which visit or live permanently on the island. Twelve species of seabirds regularly breed in the group. The most famous of all the island birds is the Lord Howe Island woodhen(Tricholimnas sylvestris). A symbol of the way a combination of rugged terrain and late conservation effort has enabled so much of value to survive on the island. At the same time its story is a reminder of the extreme vulnerability of the island's wildlife, which evolved without natural predators. The roll-call of destruction is bad. Nine out of Lord Howe Island's fifteen land birds(fourteen endemic forms) are extinct. Many problems remain. The wider Australian community must be ready to assist what remains of the features that made Arthur Bowes(surgeon of the Lady Penrhyn 1788) think of a golden age, can be considered safe. (Extract from Australian Wilderness Heritage Vol. 1. Lord Howe Island written by Geoff Mosley.)

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs M. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr.D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Anne Bailey
9 Ellinbank street
Newborough 3825
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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 330 JUNE 1991

LVFNC INC.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Friday 28th June 7.30 pm

Speaker: Ken Bell "Orchids for Beginners"

Excursion: Meet at Tarwin on the South Gipps. Hwy. 11am.

BIRD GROUP

Excursion: MONDAY 1st July. Bird Observing at Blue Rock Dam. Meet at 10am Picnic area at Dam. Take first turn off to Dam on Willow Grove Rd.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

July 21st. Tree Planting - 10.00am onwards; follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Tebb Tce. Your help would be especially appreciated.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph. (056) 231563

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St, Morwell.

SUMMER CAMPOUT AT GELANTIPY.

25-28 January, 1991 cont...

BOTANICAL OBSERVATIONS FROM BON THOMPSON:

During the week-end we passed sveral clumps of Lythrum salicaria the Purple Loosestrife. They were patches of beautiful purple about 22 feet high with dense spikes of flowers. Interesting plants seen included the rare Hedge Oschatzia- O. cuneifolia, an alpine bog plant with a 6" tall branched stem with very tiny white flowers. We searched diligently for Australian Toad-flax Thesuim austrate on Rocky Plain without sucess. This is a yellowish green plant with white greenish flowers 1.5-2mm long. Much more visible was the Slender Beard orchid Calochilus gracillimus very like the Purplish Beard orchid Calochilus robertsonii but it has a more slender straighter tip to the tongue and has no coloured ridge between the glands at the base of the column. This orchid has only been known in NSW in 1943. The Alpine Daisy bush Oleasia alpicola has very few ray florets. As noted earlier, many plants of Mountain Banksia B. canei were seen at one stopping place. This plant is named after Bill Cane and is also the floral emblem for the Maffra High School in his honour. James Turner showed us a tall groundberry Acrotuche leucocarpa which has just recently received its name after being sperated from the Tall Ground-berry Acrotriche divaricata. The former had little white berries and belongs to the same family as Honey-pots but is a bush 4ft high. Fluffy white seeds floating down to the ground surprised many of us when we traced them back to the Sassafras trees. The forest Pennywort Hydrocotyl geraniifolia had starry white flowers and divided serrated leaves which made a delicate picture.

GOANNAS (SINGULAR AND PLURAL!)

Near W-tree on the way up to Gelantipy there was a large dead wombat on the road, as we approached there was a goanna feeding on the wombat. The goanna left and ran into the bushland at the side of the road; but it couldn't have gone far as it was back again before we were out of sight. Comparing notes at the cottages Jim Blucher had seen a similar picture three hours before us and others had seen it ½ an hour later than us. So either the goanna had a long much interupted meal or there are several goannas in that area.

THE ROUTES AND ROAD CONDITIONS:

Those who travelled from the L.V. journeyed up the Princes Hwy to Bairnsdale, crossed the Nicholson River and headed towards the pretty hamlet of Bruthen. After crossing the Tambo River we travelled progressively more northerly through the limestone country around Buchan and for a brief period climbed the eastern flank of the Buchan River valley, enjoying the picturesque scenery from our vantage point. The scenery changed, nature and aspect as we descended the winding road into the Murrandal valley and across it then we climbed over Butchers Ridge for the run to Gelantipy.

..../1

SUMMER CAMPOUT AT GELANTIPY

25-28 January, 1991 cont....

THE ROUTES AND ROAD CONDITIONS cont....

On the whole the roads traversed during the weekend were good; but not very pot-holed or corrugated, there was less dust than was expected and because the hills were old and weathered some of the journeys were in steep but not precipitous or rocky country.

A BIRD LIST

Birds observed from the Tulloch Ard Road, Little River and Gorge area, Benambra Road, Rocky Plain, Emu Plain and the Gelantipy districts:

Magpie
Little Raven
Black Kite
Australian Kestrel
Little Eagle
Kookaburra
Grey Goshawk
Grimson Rosella
King Parrot
Gang Gang
Galah
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
Bronze Wing Pigeon
White Eared Honey Eater
White Naped " "
Crescent " "
Eastern Spinebill
Red Wattle Bird
Yellow Faced Honey Eater
Fuscou " "
Satin Fly Catcher
Grey Fantail
Wood Duck
Black Duck
Grey Shrike Thrush
White Throated Tree Creeper
Black Faced Monarch(Fly Catcher)
Whits Faced Heron
Ibis
White Naped Heron
Plover
Lyre Bird
Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike
Pippit
Rufous Song Lark
Golden Whistler
Goldfinch
House Sparrow
Welcome Swallow
Dusky Wood Swallow
Tree Martin
Mudlark
Whipbird
Fairy Wren
Flame Robin
Yellow Robin
Striated Thornbill
Little Thornbill
Striated Pardolotte
Noisy Mynah
Pied Currawong
Grey Currawong

SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER.

An enjoyable dinner prepared by Tharoona Park management was shared in the camp community room on Sunday night. We did justice to a very good roast dinner including turkey, followed by a sumptuous array of homemade desserts. It was a very enjoyable time of sharing with our friends billeted in other cabins. After dinner, Vice-President Philip Rayment took the opportunity to express the heartfelt thanks of all, first to James Turner for his planning and leadership of our excursion and, second, to Beth Isaksen for co-ordinating our bookings at Koroonda Park.

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SUMMER CAMPOUT AT GELANTIPY

25-28 January, 1991 cont....

Bon Thompson concluded proceedings on a light-hearted and thoroughly appropiate note by offering this poem:

"LAMENT OF AN AMATEUR BIRD-WATCHER"

Oh, for a bird of a brilliant hue,
With distinct markings to give me a clue;
Not just all-over grey like a thrush,
Nor one which darts away in a rush
Ere a chance occurs to adjust the glasses
For a much better look before it passes.

Oh, for a bird with a brighter dot
On forehead, or wing, or any spot;
None of your so-called "faintly barred"
Which to find in the book is so very hard,
But one with its colour plainly defined,
To refer to the book it's easy to find.

Oh, for a bird for a while to stay still,
To give me a chance to observe it till
I can note its colour, is it yellow or buff?
Till I can take my notes in the rough
Not one of those birds which quickly fly;
I have lost it again and I heave a sigh.

Oh, for a bird that sits out on a limb,
Not near the trunk where the light is dim;
Not one that remains behind the cover
Of leafy shade till I discover,
And my feelings thus to harrow,
Because I'm looking at a sparrow.

Oh, for a bird which sits low on a tree,
Enabling it to be easy to see;
Not one that high in the eucalypt goes
Where the flowers abound as it very well knows;
I peer through the glasses, my neck gets a crick,
I don't know the way to take a trick.

O. F. McHaffie
Park Orchards

KING PARROTS

A flash of colour, a plaintive screech and the branches bend as a number of Australian King Parrots *Alisterus scapularis* settle in my backyard. Their vibrant red and green colours stand out distinctly against the grey sky and bring alittle warmth to a winters day. They squabble and preen themselves for a short time then fly off to settle amongst the rich colours of Liquidamber that line the streets - their calls fading away into the misty air.

Anne Bailey.

..../3

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

WIRILDA ENVIRONMENT PARK

Members of the L.V. Field Naturalist Club awaited the arrival of two buses bringing a hundred children from Kosciusko Street School, Grades 1 and 2, to take part in a tree planting exercise.

Mr Kelly the Senior Teacher, introduced teachers and parents and then divided the children into five groups, four adults to a group. Each child was given a work sheet to record the different shaped leaves they found. On the bush walking track Lichens, Mosses, Fungi and the very intriguing Fern fronds that curled like a shepherd's crook were found. Also seen was a very large Wombat burrow. A White Throated tree-creeper was observed making its way up a trunk of a tree to the delight of some children. A delightful sight was a male Yellow Robin which sat on a branch and sang a song to them. The holes had been prepared for the planting of Acacia trees- the children popped their tree into its hole, pressed the earth firmly down about the tree roots, put stakes into the ground and then an open topped plastic cover to guard the young trees from animals, the final and most important job was to give the tree a drink of water from a bucket. We walked around the Park and barbecue area looking for various shaped leaves and found many, all except one which was shaped like a star. On the back of some leaves very tiny blisters were found, each had a minute hole in the centre; these blisters had once been the home of a leaf eating insect. Misletoe was noticed growing on some eucalypts and after a search on the ground a few drooping flowers were found. Quite a large number of Superb Blue Wrens were in evidence. One teacher took his group to the river edge, each child was given a small hand net to skim the surface of the water and then empty the contents into a large basin for closer observation. The children were very industrious and we are sure that many interesting discoveries were made. The highlight for the day for all, was to see a very large shaggy old, old Wombat browsing on the grass a little distance from us. Thanks were given by Mr Kelly, children and teachers boarded the buses to return to school.
The end of another lovely bush day, thank you children.

Mrs P Wall.

FUNGI - BRUCE FUHER

Bruce Fuhrer, of the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Monash University, spoke to us on the subject of fungi at our April meeting. Far from being a stranger to our Club, Bruce was welcomed as an old friend and his talk was awaited with interest.

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FUNGI - Bruce Fuhrer cont....

Having spoken to us previously on the broad subject of fungi, Bruce decided on this occasion to focus his talk on a project that he had undertaken last year for the Tasmanian Forestry Commission - the production of a "Guide to the Rainforest Fungi of Tasmania". This had invloved some 4 weeks and 1000km of travel in Tasmania in order to collect and photograph speciments. Unfortunately, this all took place in the middle of one of the most severe droughts recorded in recent times with the ground in some of the myrtle forests bone dry to a depth of 10 inches or so, hardly the best of starts. Eventually around 250 different species were recorded in the four weeks, about the number he might have expected in a single afternoon under ideal conditions! However, with the aid of fungi photographed on previous expeditions, a suitably representative collection of rainforest species was compiled into the first draft. Although the draft was subsequently reduced and modified by the Forest Commission designer, a good selection of rainforest fungi from Tasmania and Victoria will be presented.

An interesting offshoot of this study, however, related to the fact that some of the genera to be found in Tasmania were also to be found in New Zealand and South America, in consequence of their common origin in the ancient land mass of Gondwana. On the other hand, little record of their existence had been recorded for the mainland of Australia. Fungi of the genera Rozites & Gomphus were of particular interest in this regard and it appeared that their lack of record on the mainland could have been attributable to the fact that no one had seen fit to look for them. Bruce and his colleague, Tom May, took upon themselves the task of doing just this and he was able to report that some of these missing links had since been found on the mainland, thereby removing this anomoly in regard to the Gondwana origin.

Bruce then went on to illustrate his talk with an excellent series of slides, highlighting the visible differences that distinguished various species and commenting on the less visible features, such as the colour of the spore and its appearance under the microscope. Bruce not only named the various species in detail byt also made his subject fascinating to the point where any attempt to register names would have been an undesirable distraction. It seems that he frequently gets queries about the bewildering range of names of the different fungi but his reply is to point out that we readily accept a wide range of generic names of trees despite the fact that they all take the basic form of trunks and branches with leaves. Small wonder that all the various forms of fungi involve a wide range of genera. If there were any budding mycologists in the audience looking for a good example of this he couldn't suggest a better one than the Psathyrella genus which boasted an awful lot of species such that "only a genius or a madman" would undertake a study of it!

Among the slides projected were several of fungi newly recorded in Australia and deserving of special mention. These included

..../5

FUNGI - Bruce Fuhrer cont....

several as yet un-named species which gave rise to a comment from Bruce that there was much more enjoyment in finding a speciment without a name than with one! In this event it was not uncommon to offer it a temporary name based on the location where it was found - hence Laccaria Blackwoodensis (found near Blackwood in Vic) or L. acheronensis (from the Acheron Way). Among those species without a name was a pink Entoloma, possibly the first pink Entoloma collected for the Southern hemisphere. Others of note included Mycena leaiana, a brilliant orange gill edged Mycena common in Tas. and N.Z. and also recorded from N.S.W. but only recently found in Vic. in a single colony at Kinglake; and Cuphocybe, with just one specimen from Vic. and two from Tas. so far.

In addition some of the more common but possibly more spectacular species were included among the slides, such as Calostoma rodwayi, a puff ball with a brilliant orange decoration to the orifice at its apex; Cyttaria gunnii, the equally brilliant orange coloured balls growing on Myrtle Beech trees; and Hericum clathroides, the delicate white fungi reminiscent of a frozen waterfall.

Less colourful but equally interesting was an underground species in which the spore is contained in cavities rather than on gills. A variety of underground fungi form a main source of food for some animals and, in one instance, 34 different species were detected in one dropping from a Gippsland Potoroo.

With respect to liverworts and lichens, Bruce mentioned that he had illustrated and otherwise assisted with the book by G.A.M. Scott - Southern Australian Liverworts (1985) and that, later this year, he will be working on a guide to Rainforest Lichens of Southern Australia. Also that he was working on Western Australian wild-flower projects. To offer a change from the world of fungi, he wound up his talk by projecting a sequence of slides of uncommon W.A. wildflowers. Many of these prompted identification by members of the audience due to their similarity to better-known species but most answers heard proved to be well wide of the mark! Altogether a most educational, entertaining and enjoyable evening.

The related excursion to Glen Nayook the following day was attended by a large group and proved equally rewarding. The single file procession along the narrow tracks may have hindered many from profitting directly from the wealth of information made available by Bruce but he did his best to ensure that none of us missed out.

One of the early finds was a recently described, pink fleshed underground species referred to the previous evening. Samples of these were promptly collected by Bruce and deposited in his specimen bag to be taken back to the laboratory for further study and, in fact, that specimen bag was to become quite well-filled by the end of the walk. Apart from fungi, many species of lichen, mosses and liverworts were pointed out and identified to add to the interest.

..../6

FUNGI - Bruce Fuhrer cont....

To me, the highlights of the day were the opportunities it afforded the likes of myself and others with photographic interests to record some of the finds that came to light. This led to a lot of stops and starts along the track but, thanks to the willing assistance of our leader and other members of the party, without having to miss out on anything of significance.

Apart form the underground fungi, two other items were of particular interest to me. One was the finding of one of the slime moulds, the first I had seen "in the flesh" Maybe I am almost right in using that phrase as slime moulds appear to be uncertain themselves as to whether to act like a fungus or an animal. I had previously photographed the fruiting heads of a slime mould (at least I thought it was that and I was grateful when Bruce was able to confirm this for me.), so this added nicely to the collection. Another highlight was encountering the beautiful "frozen waterfall" of the fungi, Hericium clathroides, which I hope I have also managed to capture on film. There were many other intersting items, enough to satisfy all of the varied intersts within the group and it was clearly a very enjoyable outing for all concerned. Our thanks go to Bruce once again for his competent and generous assistance. We look forward to another session from him in the not-to-distant future, preferably, he suggests, on a subject other than fungi!.

Arthur Ewen.

BIRDING IN INDONESIA.

15-31 March 1991.

PART 1. BALI:(Population approx. 3½million)
A party of ten Birdos with Chris Doughty as leader, travelled to Indonesia by air and landed at Dempassar, Bali. Right from the outset. things were different, we rose early 7,6,5, or earlier as the occasion demanded, travelled by bus and foot arriving back in the evening at 6,7,or 8 o'clock for dinner. While we were at Kuta Beach, we had an early moring expedition along the beach; later, in the marshes at the end of the aerodrome finishing up along the mangroves and crab farms at Lanuar: we saw numerous birds of various species of waders, herons, egrets, whimbrels, terns, a brown booby Sula leucogaster and others, The high note of the morning was the sighting of a Brahminy Kite Halidstur indus, and a little later, a white-bellied sea-eagle Halraeetus leucogaster. The return trip to our lodgings was an adventure- we wove our way through hundreds of street stalls, thousands of motor scooters and tens of thousands of pedestrians only to find that when we alighted we were immediately besieged by a cloud of street vendors selling every conceivable object.

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Birding in Indonesia. Part 1. Bali cont....

Our stop at Bedugal in the mountain country in the middle of the island was a complete change of scenery: gone were the straight roads and flat country with associated rice paddies: here nothing was flat, roads very bendy, vegie patches on every piece of arable land. In place of the fat ducks, there were scrawny chickens everywhere. The only familiar things were our leader, coach driver, guide and of course the coach. The most common birds were various munias, sparrows, white eyes, flower peckers and lovely black-naped orioles Oriolus chinensis. Various swifts and swallows flashed over head, while prinias, tailor birds and long tailed shrikes Lanius schach, fed in the understorey. Three interesting species seen were the brown honeyeater Lichmera indistincta, (same as ours) Phillipine glossy starling Aplonis panayensis, and the brightly coloured Java Munia Lonchura leucogastroides.

The next several days were spent in the Bali Barat N.P. at the extreme western tip of the island: on the way, we saw numerous egrets and herons. By arrangement we were given the the special priveledge of observing some Bali starling hatchlings Leucopsar rothschildi. These birds are bred in strictly accessed places, and the hatchlings are prepared for release into the wild by their living for a period in a special aviary. They may be observed through narrow slits in the walls of a central corridor: two persons at a time are allowed into the viewing area - you walk in bare footed through a dettol drip tray and remain silent while you are in the enclosure, The adult birds are snow white, with shaggy crests and black edges to their flight feathers and the tip of the tail. They have a conspicuous blue naked facial patch. There are probably less than 50 birds in the wild: their habitat is closely guarded by Government Park Rangers. The Indonesian Government is to be commended for this and other conservation projects in the face of so many difficulties. Various doves, barbets and bee-eaters were also noted.

At Gilimanuk, we spent some time out on the lagoon observing birds amongst the mangroves including the "small blue Kingfisher" Alcedo caerulescens, and a magnificent "lesser adjuant Leptoptilos javanicus. On the ninth day we flew to Jakarta Indonesia"s capital city, modern, large and hectic.

F. J. Blucher.

The second part of this article covering bird observing in Indonesia will be printed in July's edition.

In all the Javan province has a total of 494 bird species recorded, of which 368 are residents and 126 occur only as visitors and vagrants. Of the residents some 207 species have distributions that extend westwards onto the Asian mainland proper. Of these 119 reach their southernmost limits in Java or Bali; 50 species extend beyond Bali into the Lesser Sunda chain and only 38 reach Australia. (Birds of Java & Bali John Mackinnon 1990).

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REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 20/5/91

6 members present. 3 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (of Interest).

1. Projector and magazines paid for and collected by B. Nielsen who will also purchase approx. 5 metres of cord. Extra lens required if we purchase zoom lens. Cost of suitable equipment case to be investigated. Stand ordered. Tape recorder J Wall to bring to next meeting, if suitable possibly purchased.

2. Callignee pines. No action at present.

FINANCE: Balance:

Cheque Account	$664.05
Investment Acc.	$2399.85
Conservation Acc.	$423.82

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. J Wall indicated that a request for a plant survey at Wirilda will be coming.

2. An Arbor Week activity was held at Wirilda Enviroment Park on the Monday for Grades11 and 2 at Kosciusko State School Traralgon. B Nielsen and P & J Wall ran 5 activities over whole day for 100 children and had
3. a successful day.

3. Holey Plains State Park. Ken Harris reported seismic sounding as oil exploration exercise. It is Non-intrusive activity to environment. B Nielsen to ring Mr Noble to discuss above particularly re status of park.

CONSERVATION COORDINATORS REPORT:

Received letter from Victorian Conservation Trust re road area adjacent to Lot 8A Parish of Stradbroke thanking club for for assistance and stating that the Shire of Rosedale would protect the area.
Purchased Leadbeater's Possum Management Plan that includes some of the Central Region of DCE.
Preparing submission on LCC. Recommendations for Wilderness areas.
Received notice that management plan for Jack Smith's Lake will be available probably this week.
Have agreed to do census work on APM areas that they consider should be retained as native vegetation, APM to supply map of area.
Notice given of Forestry Management Advisory Committee meeting Tuesday 28/4/91

Next meeting 24th June 1991 7.30pm YMCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: June Lubcke,
Bon Thompson

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

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Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

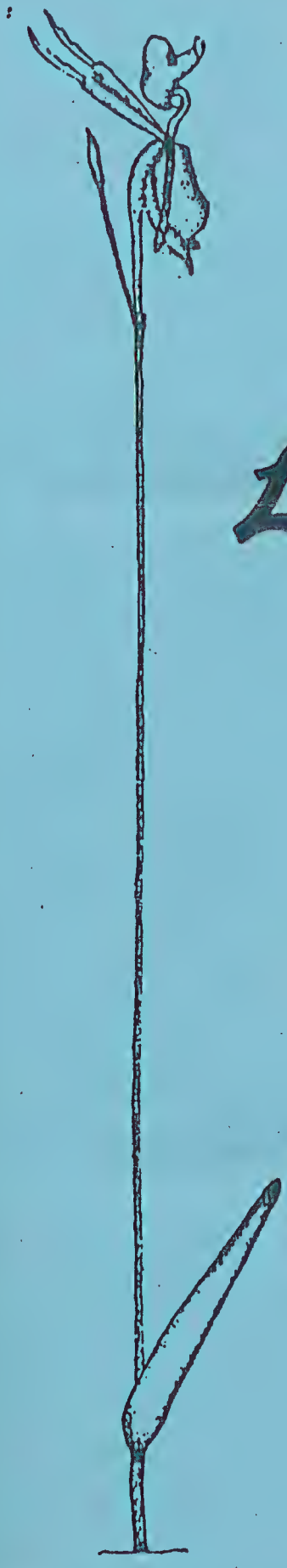
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JULY 1991

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Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LVFNC INC. COMING EVENTS.

Meeting: Friday 26th July at 7.30pm

Speaker: Subject "Landcare"

Excursion Saturday 27th July. 10am Oasis Cafe. Toongabbie.

BIRD GROUP

Excursion: Monday 5th August.
Bird Observing at Wirilda (A.B.C. Count)
Meet 10am at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers - Yallourn North Road.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

July 21st We planted approx. 1600 seedlings of various types last winter and our aim is to repeat this effort. Your help would be especially appreciated. 10.00am onwards follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Tebb Tc.

August 4th ANNUAL GENERALMEETING & Special General Meeting Please make the effort, it would be great to have every one along. Meet at the depot garage 1.30 Plate Please.

August 18th Tree Planting- It would be nice to have already finished, but lets wait and see.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph. (056) 231563.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St, Morwell.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 331 JULY 1991

A.P.M FOREST FIELD DAY - 8.5.1991

A group of Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist members met at the new visitors centre of the APM Forest, Maryvale, where we were welcomed by Mr R McCarthy. Mr Mc Carthy gave us a resume of the programme for the day which was to visit trials and plantations at Longford, Flynn, Silver Creek, Jeeralang and Mount Worth Tree Farms. We were then told about the commencement of APM Forests plantations, from single property in the 1950's to the largest private plantation owner in Australia.

Leaving the Mill by bus, areas to be planted to eucalypts around the Maryvale area were pointed out, and of particular interest was a "Nelder" design spacing trial. A number of circular rings are planted from a centre point, with the same number of trees in each circle until the outside perimeter is reached, giving a range of tree spacings. The National re-afforestation Programme is to encourage farmers to plant more trees on their farms especially along watercourses to provide habitat for native flora and fauna, and protect the soil along creeks and streams. Arriving at Longford Depot we were introduced to Mr Stan Deliopoulos, the District Foreman who led us to trial plantations of eucalypts and pines. These plantations are grown on a rotation system. At the end of each rotation the residue from harvesting are not burnt, but chopper rotted(mulched) into the soil to return nutrients for future crops. Particular interest was a trial plantation of Pinus radiata which was APM Forests original planting in the 1950's and are now about 100' high: this plantation is to be left for study and research purposes.

Different fertilisers are tested on a variety of eucalupts to see which promotes the most growth. Aerial spreading is one method of fertilising the trees and with granulated forms more efficient and safer than using dust fertilisers. Zoologists are constantly studying and monitoring the browsing habits of animals within the Company land base.

We travelled along the South Gippsland Highway and turned off at the Gifford Road - the soil quality is pretty poor and rainfall light. We saw trial plantations of Eucalyptus globulus - one which was in reasonably good condition for the soil type - and another where conditions obviously did not suit the trees (growth very stunted and eaten by insects). We passed a stand of Pinus pinaster which is drought resistant, and although growing well, is not suitable making quality paper owing to the excess of resin. Now Pinus radiata is grown across all sites... The soil in this area lack nutrients, and weedicides have been applied to eradicate Bracken Fern as it competes for moisture and nutrients. Travelling along the "Chessum Highway" through plantation after plantation of pines we came to the Old Rosedale Road crossed over and entered the Merrimans Creek Scenic Drive. Approaching Hiamdale pockets of natural vegetation were pointed out which are to be retained as corridors and habitats for flora and fauna.

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A.P.M Forest Field Day - 8.5.1991. cont....

Trial areas at Flynn Tree Farm have been planted to Eucalyptus nitens, E. regnans and E. globulus. Extensive research programmes are carried out on these species and information is continually collected and fed into a computor. We eventually arrived at Silver Creek Tree Farm - where we were given a very welcome lunch. Mr Braden Jenkin spoke to us about the use of Pesticide 1080; he stated that of all the methods of preventing young trees being eaten 1080 is the least harmful, most efficient and cheapest providing it is used correctly. Goats have been introduced to control Blackberries and other noxious weeds. These animals have to be contained in an area by electric fences.

Leaving Silver Creek we saw a stand of trees that were 30 years old and some of the members were present when they were planted on a previous visit to the farm. Some of the poorer quality trees have been harvested from this plantation. We were fortunate to have the company of a few foresters to answer the many questions raised. As our excursion had to be shortened owing to time and inclement weather conditions; we are to have another excursion in the near future to continue in the Jeeralang and Mount Worth areas. Many thanks to Mr McCarthy, the foresters and last but not least Mr Luke McDermott the cook for an excellent and informative day.

Peg Wall

A.P.M FOREST FIELD DAY - 2nd.PART JUNE 1991

Twenty-eight members of the LVFNC Inc. assembled at the APM Forest Visitors Centre to go on a field excursion to follow up the previous tour. Mr R McCarthy, APMF. Operations superintendent, gave a brief outline of the days programme and also a resume of the last history of the APM to those members who were not on the last excursion. We were to see 30 year old plantations and note the change from the original farmland to forest. For every 1000 hectares of trees planted the same are harvested on a rotation basis. Pines planted by the Traralgon High School were harvested and a cheque for $10,440. was presented to the school by Mr McCarthy; he then introduced Mr Braden Jenkin, District Forester Western, who was to be our leader for the day.

Boarding the bus we traversed the APM private road to Alexander Road and then onto the Princes Hwy, we continued on to the Traralgon Creek Road to the turn off to Koornalla. At Koornalla we turned right at the monument onto Taylor's Road which was a steep, narrow, winding road with magnificient views, also we were passing through last years planting on the ridges.

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A.P.M Forest Field Day - 2nd. Part. cont....

1st. Stop was to view some Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gums) approximately 5' high which were planted on the very steep slopes of a gully. Mr Jenkin explained the way that harvested timber was hauled from the gully, without damaging the surrounding areas using a Skyline. A skyline is a large winch which pulls the logs to the roadside for processing and loading onto trucks. Harvesting contractors accepting the work are to agree on all safety regulations. They also use a range of highly mechanised equipment suitable for the area they work in. It was also noticed that a lot of damage to the Blue Gums was caused by feral goats and these are being regulated periodically. It was marginal country for farming but proved unrewarding, however the soil is very good for forestry and in conjunction with good rainfall, will give a good volume of timber. We passed through stands of Eucalyptus globulus which were natural regenerated after the bush fires of 1942. Unfortunately our views of the ridge were obscured by heavy rains.

2nd. Stop Was at the APM Forest quarry which is the main one for this area; the crushed rock is used to make and keep the forest roads in good shape to allow access year round.

3rd. Stop This area near Jeeralang was logged in 1920. It was replanted to Eucalyptus regnans in 1980. We were fortunate to see some Lyrebirds along the track before we turned off the Jeeralang West Road.

4th. Stop Mountain Ash was planted in 1961 and the lower storey was thick with tree ferns. Braden told us that even though the stand was mechanically thinned the majority of the tree ferns were retained. This area is expected to be logged in about 10 years.

Mountain Ash seed does not grow readily under unsuitable conditions. Exposed soil was required to allow seeds to germinate and grow. In nature this is produced by fire which clears the under storey and the regeneration begins. Sometimes the seeds are removed by ants but after a hot fire the ants are destroyed. Nearby Mountain Ash re-growth which resulted from the 1942 fires were thinned in 1987 and very good specimens were noted; a very interesting comment was made (especially about Mountain Ash) that the crown of the trees do not overlap and thus smaller trees deprived of sunlight die off.

We turned off to the Jeeralang North Road and stopped at the "Governor's Hut" for lunch where we were greeted by the cook who had a barbecue going and a cheerful fire in the hut. After a very satisfying lunch Braden spoke to us about the different types of tree protection, and demonstrated the various types of tree guards available. During our lunch the weather was still inclement with showers and sunshine!!

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A.P.M. Forest Field Day - 2nd. Part. cont....

We travelled on our way to Jumbuk and stopped at an area where logging operations would have been in progress had it not been for the weather and dangerous conditions; here we were shown different types of equipment for felling, de-barking, cutting into lengths and loading onto trucks. An interesting factor was that all trees consist of 50% water by weight. 1 tonne of green wood when processed yields approximately ¼ tonne of fibre for paper making. We then proceeded to the Billy's Creek catchment area which had been previously under pasture and both sides of the road had been planted by hand. We were shown the difference of one side that had not been thinned and the other that had been thinned, which will produce better quality timber. Another interesting comment was that Eucalypts are mostly endemic to Australia with only two species occuring elsewhere and not in Australia. Now eucalypts have been "exported" to make it the worlds most widely planted genus. Plantings are mainly for pulpwood and fuelwood.

This was the end of our tour and we continued on through heavily timbered country until we reached the Hazelwood Road and so back to the APM. Our special thanks to Mr B McCarthy, Mr B Jenkin our leader and Mr Ray Czempinski our cook for a very comprehensive tour.

J Wall
LVFNC INC

P.S. We certainly found out that the Jeeralangs are a high rain-fall area!!!

LAND PROTECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING 18-6-91

The morning session of the above meeting involved the inspection of two properties at Fumina, north of Hillend. The owners of these two properties had breached the native vegetation clearing regulations and the Department of Conservation and Enviroment officers were seeking comments from the advisory committee.

The first landholder had operated outside the guidelines stipulated in the permit he held by clearing too close to streams and also crossing the boundary into crown land. The second landholder had done the right thing with regard to guidelines but had not obtained the necessary permit claiming ignorance. Both these areas are within water catchment of Blue Rock Dam.

After a late lunch the business part of the meeting continued until well after 4 PM. Severe budget cuts will restrict DCE operations still further during the next 12 months.

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BIRDING IN INDONESIA.

15-31 March 1991.

PART 2. JAVA: (Population approx. 90 million)
The Cibodas N.P. is the most significant N.P. in Java and preserves lowland, mountain and sub alpine habitats and is a prime example of Java's once magnificent rain forests.

On two consecutive days we climbed 1600 meters up Gunung Gede-Pangrano volcano, ie about half way. The effort was worth while as we saw pink necked fruit doves Ptilinpus porphyreus, spotted doves, Streptopelia chinensis, white bellied swiftets, Collocalia esculenta, three different kinds of barbets, black faced & lesser cuckoo shrikes Coracina larvata and fimbriata, pied trillers Lalage nigra, sunda minivets Pericrocotus miniatus, orange spotted and yellow vented bulbuls Pycononotuc bimaculatus and goiavier. We also saw both ashy and lesser raquet tailed drongos Dicrurus leucophaeus and remifer, great tit Parus major, blue nuthatch Sitta nazuraa and numerous babblers. Most importantly, we saw a white crowned forktail Enicurus velatus quietly feeding beside a little mountain stream. Birds were also plentiful in the beautiful Bogor Botanical gardens.

A four hour bus trip to Labuan and seven hours by launch got us to the Ujong Kulong N.P. The N.P. is bout 40k from Krakatoa: Krakatoa in turn is about 50k from Labuan. In this very important N.P. we saw little egrets Egretta garzetta, reef egrets Egretta sacra honey buzzards Pernis ptilorhynchus, green jungle fowel Galkus varius, green pea fowel Pavo muticus wild cattle called banteng, wild boar and the fresh footprints of the rare black rhinocerous.

The accommodation was basic: no sheets or blankets, none were needed however. The lack of towels was different: showering was also different.. the toilets had little brick water tanks in each booth, filled by a cold water tap and furnished with a long handled dipper - you can work out the rest! The food Indonesian, tasty and adequate. Mosquitoes well we hardly saw any at all in Indonesia. Our accommadation was on a little island just offshore from Java: on the morning we were leaving this N.P., we were up at 3.30am in the launch by 4am around Krakatoa sightseeing by lunch time and back to Labuan by 3.15pm and to Jakarta by bus by 8.10pm for dinner: we needed it!..

The last day we went shopping in the morning and visited the very expansive walk-in bird park in the afternoon. This was an amazing place with so many species free ranging: some species which did not co-habitate too well were in their own enclosures eg raptors. This visit was enlivened by a young man who accompanied us, calling many birds by imitating their own calls and throwing them meal worms to entice them right up to us.

..../5

Birding in Indonesia. 15-31 March 1991. cont....

During our trip we did not see any parrots or owls in the wild, only one nightjar, but we did get a good look at a rare Malay Goldfinch Serinus estherae. Many birds were seen clearly by us by a simple ruse: our leader had a tape recorder, the bird call was recorded, replayed and the songster came up to see who was in his territory!. We saw a total of 183 different species of birds in the wild and 15 species of mammals.

Further Reading: Field Guide to the birds of Bali & Java; J McKinnon: GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY PRESS.

Insight Guides: Bali A.P.A. Publications (HK) L.T.D.

F. J. Blucher

A TOUR OF THE VALLEY

25/5/91

A band of 27 Field Naturalists and friends were guest of Mr David Langmore and the Latrobe Regional Commission for this excursion. Over a morning "cuppa", courtesy of the LRC, Mr Langmore explained that the Latrobe Region as covered by the Commission, extended from Sale in the East to Yarragon in the West and from the Baw Baw's in the North to Wilson's Promontary (yes, that surprised us too) in the South. In 1989 the LRC was given a grant of $200,000.00 for the sole purpose of carrying out landscaping projects within the Latrobe Region. These projects are carried out in conjuction with the local councils and where a local Council submits a landscaping proposal which fits in with the overall strategy plan, a grant is then made to that Council to complete the project on a $1.00 for $1.00 basis. The strategy plan is aimed at using landscaping as one means of making the Latrobe Region a more pleasant place in which to live and be proud of, as well as making it more attractive to visitors.

Examples given by Mr Langmore included the Canary Island Palms in Yarram which had an uncertain future due to their interfering with power lines, but the power lines were moved instead. On the other hand a couple of flowering gum trees in York Street, Sale were sacrificed in favour of what is believed to be a more attractive and practicable landscaping plan. Also in Sale, Spotted Gums and other native trees are being planted alongside the Causeway while the local Red Gums are to be retained. Unfortunately, not all Councils have been so enthusiastic and the LRC are still trying to persuade Rosedale of the benefits landscaping can bring to the commercial centre in increased patronage of local businesses.

/6

A Tour of the Valley cont....

Another project still in the planning stages is the Regional and Town Entry Signs Project, Graphic Designer, Mr Gary Deverson, has been engaged as a consultatnt to come up with an overall plan as well as designs for the individual signs. His brief is to produce signs depicting something unique or commonly associated with each locality while also depicting a common theme which will make the signs immediately recognisable as being a part of the Latrobe Region.

After being told something of the projects we were to be taken to see, we boarded our bus, again courtesy of LRC, and wended our way around some of Traralgons main streets which have been given "the treatment". As in most major commercial centres, Gray Street and Franklin Street have been planted with Plane Trees and these have also been planted along the Highway to screen the railway buildings. Further plantings, this time of native trees, along Traralgon Creek are aimed at screening the present view of the Cement Works from Shakespeare Street. From these, we followed a round-about route bringing us back to the highway east of Traralgon where we saw a mixture of Plane Trees and Eucalypts planted on both sides of the Highway to screen out some of the multitude of light industries which sprawl along the highway.

Through Traralgon and on the highway towards Morwell we saw a very recent planting of mixed native species between the highway and the railway line in what was previously a very unsightly wasteland. These are all small trees and shrubs due to the overhead wires. Further along we were shown a Blue Gum Forest on the former Davey Bros. Farm adjacent to the north side of the highway and on the opposite side, south of the railway, we stopped to inspect a planting of mixed native trees on crown land previously leased by the McGouran family. Both plantings, although only 12 months old,,were already extremely well established, the latter having been planted by school children on last years World Environment Day.

We were then shown the eastern entrance of Morwell where wattles,silky-oaks and casurinas have been planted along the highway and railway, before turning off at Tramway Road. Here Mr Langmore explained that they are endeavouring to co-operate with the local light industrial landowners in having their properties landscaped. A prime example is Di Fabrizio's who have allowed the LRC to plant trees within their property boundaries. In general, the Morwell-Churchill corridor, particularly as viewed from the Midland Highway is a major landscaping priority.

Jane Purbrick

This article will be concluded in the August edition of the Naturalist.

..../7

FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

The main direction of the present discussions is to examine options for flora and fauna management. At the June meeting considerable discussion centred on the draft management strategy for the Leadbeater Possum-Gymnobelideus Leadbeater.

This possum is sometimes found in mixed species forest, but is more common in mountain ash forests. To exist, the animal needs a forest which has some old trees which have developed hollows which may be used as nest sites. Food sources are varied, but creatures which live amongst loose bark such as tree crickets are important. Another important food source is gum from some accacia's. The animal has special pads on its feet for moving amongst thich understorey, so it does not have the need to come to earth and run up another tree regularly. The problems are that much of the origional forest has been totally cleared or is now used for timber production: much has been burnt and will not have new nest trees for another 50-80 years. Many of the existing nest trees are rotting and falling over.

Clearly, the most useful sites which can be found and have a resident population should be conserved. A proposed forest zoning system would enable the best possum habitat areas to be protected and corridors connecting them into a network; at the same time, timber production would flow from other sites. Two possibilities arise however:

(1) other fauna may be given their own habitat areas, so that,
(2) the areas left for timber harvesting would be severely diminished.

Given theses constraints, the main intent of the prescription was agreed to, provided that in 5 years time a review of section 7 is undertaken. Section 7 sets out a number of areas in which further research is needed.

F. J. Blucher
Delegate.

GELANTIPY CAMPOUT

The articles printed in the May and June Naturalist on the campout were compiled from contributions from Mary Austin, Florence and Jim Blucher, Elsie Coggan, Dorothy Farrow and Bon Thompson by Philip Rayment. My apologies for not listing them at the conclusion of the article.

Anne Bailey
Editor.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 24/6/91

8 members present. 4 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (of INTEREST)

1. Cord for projector purchased. Projection stand has been purchased but the price has gone up to $80.00.

2. Holey Plains State Park-Secretary rang Mr Frank Noble to ask about seismic testing, he had no knowledge of it so contacted Ken Harris and asked him to ring Mr Frank Noble which he did. Surveyors out of order in not notifying Mr Frank Noble.

3. With regard to letter to S.E.C.V. addressed to Mr Chiffers re block of land on Callignee South Road and Sunday Road letter appears to be lost in system. Mr Roger Trent suggested we send a map showing the block we mean with a covering letter to Land Management Office of the S.E.C.V. Bon Thompson to supply necessary information for Secretary to reply.

FINANCE: No report due to absence of Treasurer.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Report on meeting at Yallourn T.A.F.E. on 13th June entitled Gippsland Environmental Education Forum. Iris Peterson and Lorna Long represented club. Lorna reported that there was a summary of forum decisions being sent to participating groups but basically within existing courses students were being made aware of environmental problems.

2. Request from Mrs Harry of the Botany Group of the F.N.C.V. for a combined excursion to Labertouche on the 23rd of Nov. 1991. The Brookes have already offered to make a survey trip before the date and will be asked to lead combined excursion as committee in agreement with combined excursion.

3. General discussuion on magazine format. Lorna Long as a past editor of many years to discuss matter with present editor.

CONSERVATION COORDINATORS REPORT:

Bon Thompson would like to record a vote of thanks to Peg Wall and Pat Holywell for typing the submissions this month.
J Blucher reported on:
1. S.E.C.V. Overburden Rehabilitation Inspection Committee.
2. Forest Management Area Advisory Committee.

..../9

Report on Business Meeting (Conservation Coordinators Report) cont....

O. Thompson reported on Land Protection Regional Advisory Committee inspection and meeting. He also reported that Yirilda had received a grant for $3,000 to direct seed this year an area on the hill and that more trees had been planted around the picnic area and in the swampy area.

Bon Thompson reported that D.C. & E. had contacted her re a couple from Traralgon South who wanted to collect seed from the reserve for regrowth purposed. Bon suggested they collect from similar areas but not the reserve and not orchid seeds. We were asked if we wanted to be informed about such requests. Yes for the present.

Next Meeting Monday 22nd July at 7.30pm.

Supper Roster: Dulcie Sambell
Hattie Sterkenberg

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE.

Friends of Edward Hunter Bush Heritage Reserve meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm second Tuesday of each month. For more information contact Dulcie Sambell 051 276751

ALL WELCOME.

..../10

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Anne Bailey
9 Ellinbank street
Newborough 3825
Phone 051 276501.



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AUGUST 1991

ISSUE No.332

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 332 AUGUST 1991

LVFNC INC. COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Friday 23th August at 7.30pm

Speaker: Subject Freshwater Crayfish.

Excursion: Saturday 24th August. Meet by the entrance to the sand quarries east of the main entrance to APM on the Maryvale Road (ie on the Traralgon side) at 10am The entrance is on the same side of the road as the APM entrances.

BIRD GROUP:

Excursion: Monday 2nd September.
Morwell National Park
Meet at carpark Morwell National Park 10am.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

September 15th KOALA SURVEY - Lots of eyes needed for best results, great day to bring a friend along. Meet at Fosters Gully.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 231563

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE:

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details (051) 276751.

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George St, Morwell.

LAIRNSDALE & DISTRICT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

Friday 16 August:

The Speaker will be Dr. Linden Gillbank whose talk will be on Mueller in Gippsland. She works in the Philosophy Dept at Melbourne University. Phone James Turner 551258 President for more details.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 332 AUGUST 1991

THE GREENHOUSE TREEPLANTING PROGRAMME

On March 22, 1991, Mark Vitlin from the State Electricity Commission of Victoria was the guest speaker at LVFNC. His topic was "The Greenhouse Treeplanting Program".

The treeplanting program is one of a number of strategies being implemented by the SEC in response to growing concern about the accumulation of Greenhouse Gasses in the Earth's atmosphere which may lead to large scale climate changes. Carbon dioxide (CO2) accounts for just over half of the Greenhouse Effect and about half the Victorian emissions come from burning brown coal or gas in power stations, mainly in the Latrobe Valley.

The Government has adopted as policy the Toronto goal of reducing CO2 emissions to 20% less than in 1988 by the year 2005. Some of the measures adopted by the SEC to achieve this include programmes to reduce the growth in demand for electricity and research into new technologies for improved thermal efficiency of coal fired power stations.

The Treeplanting Program is an attempt to tackle the problem by using trees to remove existing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Trees absorb and store large amounts of carbon dioxide, particularly during their growing period. It has been estimated that forest plantations absorb 30 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare per year. Other benefits of a large scale treeplanting program in the Latrobe Valley are also apparent. The industrial landscape and image of the Valley could be greatly improved, particularly as many mature trees are now dying. Plantations would ensure long-term timber supplies, and could also help to maintain wildlife habitat and improve soil stability.

Mark explained that so far 300,000 trees have been planted on four sites - two at Driffield, one north of Morwell and one at Calignee. It is intended to continue plantings on SEC land, both leased and works area, located around the Latrobe Valley with potential for several million trees to be planted over three to four years.

Mark then gave some details of the critera used to select SEC land suitable for planting. It must be available for a minimum of 15 to 20 years. The land should not be prime farming land or used or designated for other use such as residential, industrial or recreational development. Existing vegetation, soil types and steepness must be considered as well as the potential fire hazard of a plantation both to the community and the SEC open cuts. There will be no plantations within one kilometre of the face of the open cut.

Mark was asked questions by the audience about the planting of pines in this programme. The reasons given were that this fits in with other government plantation policies and also with the 20 year time frome after which the land is used for other purposes.

..../1

The Greenhouse Treeplanting Programme cont....

The fact that pine saw logs lock up the carbon dioxide more permanently than wood chips which are often from eucalypts is also taken into consideration. The site conditions for the initial plantings also favoured pines and they adjoined existing pine plantations. However, it is intended that native species such as eucalypts will also be planted under this programme in the future.

Mark illustrated his talk with overheads and slides and made two brochures available to members. These are "Greenhouse Treeplantings on SEC Lands and "The SEC and the Greenhouse Effect. A Summary. August 1989". The SEC has invited public comment on the information in these publications with specific reference to the tree planting programme.

Pam Petschack.

ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED AT THE TOPICS CHOSEN FOR OUR MEETINGS?. HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE AN INPUT INTO NEXT YEARS'S SYLLABUS: In early October (date to be announced) we will be having a "Syllabus Night" when we plan the syllabus for 1992. You are invited to attend this meeting but even if you do not or cannot come you may hand in suggestions for topics and speakers to the Secretary clearly written on a piece of paper with your name and contact phone number at the August meeting or fill in the appropriate form available at the September meeting. All suggestions will be considered and if we have too many (and hopefully we do) they will be noted for the next year (1993). Please come to the meeting and/or contribute suggestions as we aim to please

Barbara Nielsen,
Honorary Secretary.

Not long ago, I was bushwalking in the Cathedral Range near Marysville when we came to the area called The Farmyard. Jane Calder had mentioned The Farmyard when she was guest speaker at LVFNC in 1989 as the place where lyrebirds "moo, bark and bleat. I can understand why as The Cathedral Range is surrounded by farms and the sounds of the animals carry well from the valley to the mountain. We saw three Lyrebirds scratching busily in The Farmyard, but they were silent as we walked by. On the other hand, while walking around the Lyrebird Forest Walk near Mirboo North more recently, a Lyrebird enthralled us with its mimicry of first a grey thrush then a whipbird, then a kookaburra. Then a magpie and then back to the beginning again all in quick succession. What a performance!

Pam Petschack.

The following pages on Salinity and Managing Groundwater were compiled by Frank Mollia BSC Honors, a hydrogeologist at The Investingation Branch Rural Water Commission of Victoria.

..../2

Rural Water Commission of Victoria

Why We Need to Manage Groundwater

What is Groundwater

Groundwater is rainwater that has filtered or percolated into the ground. There it moves slowly through openings in the sand and rock formations, ultimately discharging to low lying areas, streams, or the sea. The flow rate is much slower than a river and depends on the type of rock the water passes through as all rocks have different capabilities to transmit water.

Groundwater is a renewable resource, but the ability to replenish or recharge it is limited.

Groundwater pumping has the effect of depleting the groundwater resource in the immediate vicinity of the pumping bore. It normally recovers when the pump is turned off or after the irrigation season finishes, but in certain situations over-pumping of groundwater may occur. When that happens, the following effects can result: regional over-extraction, local bore interference, water quality deterioration and undesirable interaction with surface water.

Regional Over-extraction

The total volume pumped from all bores in a region may be greater than the volume that can be recharged. This leads to lower regional water levels, reduced bore yields and higher pumping costs. It also results in intrusion into the groundwater system of water from other sources such as lakes, the sea and rivers which would not normally enter the groundwater system and which may be saline or polluted. Intrusion of sea water into an aquifer is especially serious as the good quality groundwater resource can be effectively destroyed forever.

In extreme cases such dewatering can lead to compaction of some rock formations resulting in land subsidence. This causes damage to structures (eg. buildings), increased erosion and flooding and, on the coast, intrusion of the sea.

Local Bore Interference

If bores are situated too close to each other, the zone of depletion around one bore may extend to a neighbouring bore causing a lowering of its water level. When the neighbour begins to pump, he may find that there is insufficient drawdown available in his bore to enable him to achieve his normal bore yield.

This is not the same as regional over-extraction because the overall system is not being depleted. However, local bores need to be kept a sufficient distance apart to ensure bore operating conditions are maintained and all licence holders receive their allocated volume of water.

Water Quality Deterioration

A build up of salt in groundwater can occur in situations where there is a shallow water table system from which water is pumped to irrigate crops or pasture and part of the water then drains back down to the water table. In such cases, groundwater may be recycled a number of times and, with each cycle a certain amount of evaporation occurs concentrating salts in the soil. These salts are then washed or percolated down to the water table, leading eventually to saltier groundwater.

There may also be situations with deeper aquifers where excessive pumping or poor siting of bores can cause migration of poor quality water into good quality aquifers.

Pumping may have to be controlled to prevent these occurrences.

Interaction with Surface Water

Bores located close to surface waters (usually streams) may cause water to flow from the stream to the bore and consequently dry up the stream.

Other Concerns

In each of four situations described above, it can be seen that there is a need to control groundwater pumping, that is to manage the groundwater resource. Other major areas of groundwater management are pollution control and salinity management.

Pollution control is aimed at protecting groundwater from sources of pollution resulting from activities such as waste disposal, mining and sewerage disposal.

Salinity management involves developing and implementing control strategies by government agencies and the community where a total management approach to land use, surface water and groundwater control is adopted.

How Are Management Objectives Achieved

The Rural Water Commission (RWC) manages groundwater throughout Victoria.

Following the 1968 drought two serious problems resulting from overpumping (the failure of the Nhill town supply borefield and excessive water level decline in Westernport) brought to a head the need for a systematic approach to groundwater management. This led to the creation of the Groundwater Act 1969, now superseded by the Water Act 1989.

The Water Act attempts to ensure that problems will not arise and requires that:

- anyone wanting to drill a bore must firstly obtain a Bore Construction Licence and must employ a licensed driller;
- all information relating to the bore is supplied to a central government agency;
- large volume users (normally all those except stock and domestic users) obtain a groundwater extraction licence.

These measures are intended to assist and safeguard bore users and ensure that the long term sustainable use of the resource is protected.

The requirement for a Bore Construction Licence is designed to ensure that the RWC knows where a bore is located, what degree of success or lack of success it achieved and other data such as water quality. This information allows the Commission to advise people on the nature of the States' water resources and assess the extent of development. Pollution and salinity control activities are based on this information, together with data from groundwater investigation programs.

The main reason for requiring drillers to be licensed is to ensure that bores are drilled and constructed correctly. It also ensures that drillers are competent to overcome problems encountered while drilling (such as pressure water), exclude poor quality water intervals and prevent interaquifer contamination.

Groundwater extraction licences are necessary to control extraction rates and to minimise interference problems, thereby ensuring that individual bore owner's rights to sustained availability of groundwater are maintained. In effect, the licence acts like an insurance policy.

October 1990

SALINITY

IN PART OF THE LAKE WELLINGTON CATCHMENT

The Lake Wellington Catchment Salinity Management Plan Community Working Group, a group of local representatives, was formed in February 1990 to look at options for salinity control and prepare a salinity management plan. This group will identify the major causes of salinity and consider options to reduce watertable levels and salinisation of land.

The options considered will include ways of reducing groundwater recharge (eg: trees, improved pasture species, improved irrigation practices, landforming, etc) ways of lowering watertable levels (eg: free flowing bores, groundwater pumping and use) and ways to live with salt. The options will have to be technically feasible, economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally acceptable.

The rise of watertable levels in the Nambrok-Denison Region of the Macalister Irrigation District, Gippsland, from 1964 to 1990 has been significant.

In the Nambrok-Denison Region watertable levels rose sharply during the 1950's following the introduction of irrigation when 800 hectares lost all vegetation. Thousands of hectares were threatened by rising groundwater. During the early 1960's the Rural Water Commission installed 6 groundwater pumps and 87 free flowing bores to lower watertable levels. These controls were adequate until the mid 1960's when watertable levels began to rise again.

The maps overleaf show watertable levels for 1964 and 1990. During this period the area with watertables less than 1 m increased by 464 hectares and the area with watertables between 1 and 2 m increased by 1511 hectares. Pumping rates are to be increased from the 6 groundwater pumps. However, this is only an interim measure, prior to the development of the salinity management plan.

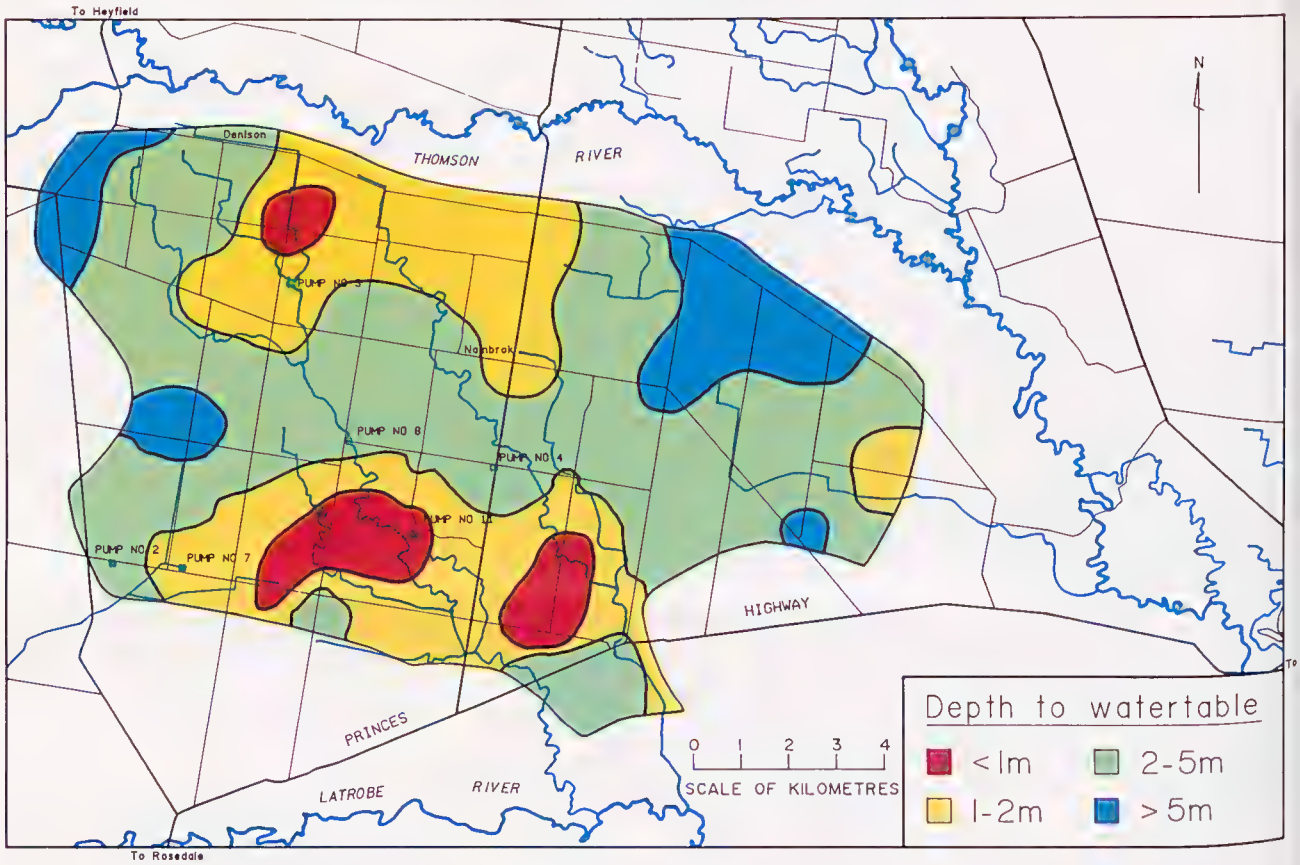
For further information on the Salinity Management Planning Process contact your local office of the Department of Conservation and Environment, Rural Water Commission or the Department of Agriculture.

DCE -Traralgon (051) 746 166
RWC - Maffra (051) 471 811
D.Ag - Maffra (051) 471 533

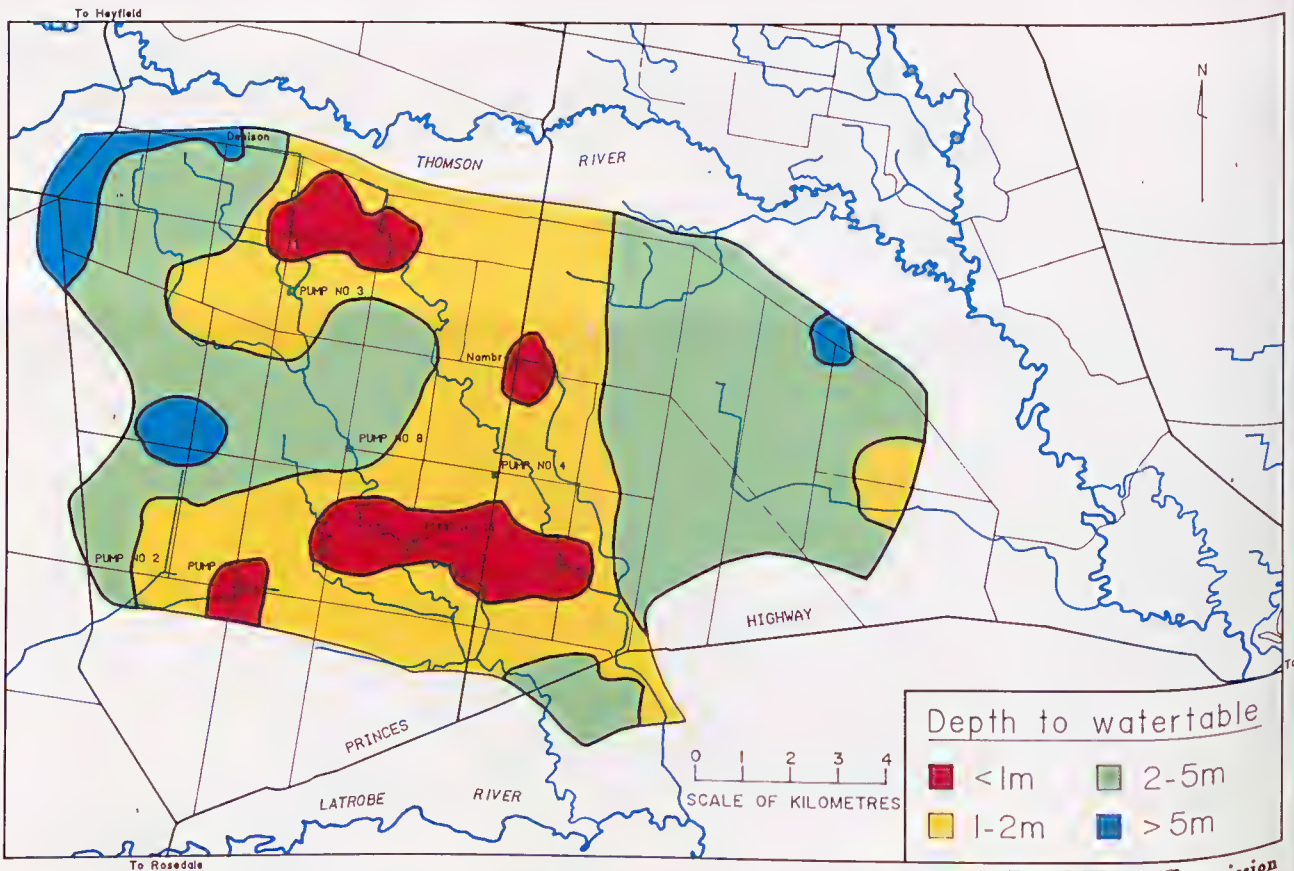


Groundwater pump in the Nambrok-Denison Region. Reduction of rye grass and white clover and bare check banks are early signs of salinity.

NAMBROK - DENISON REGION



DEPTH TO WATER TABLE 1964



DEPTH TO WATER TABLE 1990

Rural Water Commission of Victoria
Investigations Branch

A TOUR OF THE VALLEY cont....

SAT 25/5/91

As we entered Churchill, we were shown an impressive new planting of native trees between Tramway Rd and the Midland Highway. We also stopped and inspected the redevelopment works along the pathway between Churchill shopping centre and Monash University(Gippsland Campus). Those of us who had seen the "before" slides the night before were most impressed by the improvements already made, although they have by no means resolved the "after". Shrubs and trees are to be planted amongst woodshaving mulch and lighting is being provided. The existing trees along Gel Hole Creek are to remain and it is hoped evevtually to construct new pathways in both directions along the Creek. These will link the existing pathway with Glendonald Estate and Kurnai College(Churchill Campus). Back on the bus, a short detour took us past the sight of the proposed new Churchill Senior Citizens Hostel adjacent to the South-east corner of Phillip Parade and Canterbury Way.

After a lunch break at Hazelwood Pondage, we came back into Churchill to view further new plantings of native trees along the Eastern side of the Midland Highway (now apparently re-named Monash Way from the total distance from Morwell to Boolarra) at the northern entrance to town. As we continued back towards Morwell, the SECV plantings on the overburden dump were pointed out and the old Lurgi Gas Plant was noted as an area needing "natural screening" A detour down Firmins Lane took us past a "miniforest" of mixed native trees planted during this years Arbor Week on land leased to the LRC by the SECV at a "peppercorn" rent.

On arrival in Morwell, we saw first hand the Elm trees which are to remain in George Street and the Agapanthas which have been planted at their feet. We were also shown the very successful experiment in Church Street which has be been followed up by the City of Morwell landscaping in Tarwin Street, where, once again, Plane Trees have been planted. Mr Langmore also told us that some years ago, before he started working for the LRC, he and a friend had been primarily responsible for the planting by the City of Morwell and the CRB(now Vic Roads) along the northern side of the Princes Highway on the Bank between the Highway and Service Road - a vast improvement to the previously bare patch of ground. As we left Morwell on the Freeway, we saw various tree plantings around the entrances and exits, as well as along the Railway Line and between the Freeway and the SECV workshops. Along the Highway towards Yallourn and Moe, we saw the regeneration of native vegetation which is being allowed and encouraged, including some lovely patches of pink and red heath.

..../7

A Tour of the Valley cont....

As we entered Moe via Gunn's Gully, we were shown the tree plantings around the Narracan Railway bridge and made a quick detour into the Rotary Botanic Gardens. This is being developed as a park and playground adjacent to the creek but the visual appeal is somewhat marred by the large expanse of tennis courts, In the town centre, we saw more plantings of Plane Trees, which it is hoped will become a feature of towns in the Latrobe Region. Towards the south side of the town at the Elizabeth Street shops, we were shown a planting of Paolina Trees (also known as Powton Trees - a fast growing Chinese, deciduous tree with large leaves) which were vandalized soon after planting, but they don't intend to give up and will replant them as many times as necessary. Just down the road in the local school ground is a demonstration project where the LRC have involved the local community in constructing and painting school playground equipment with aboriginal motifs.

On returning to the Highway, we were told of the plan to replace the present wire mesh fences along the Highway with wooden fences. These would give better privacy to the residents and be a far more effective sound barrier. It is proposed to re-organise the landscaping along that section of of the Highway. En route back towards Morwell, we stopped for a brief look at the shrub and tree planting which has already been carried out at the proposed Hearnes Oak roadside stop.

We then had the opportunity of viewing the area where an avenue of Golden Poplars will be planted on the western approach to Morwell adjacent to the Commercial Road exit from the Freeway. Plane Trees are also to be planted along the north side of the western end of Commercial Road. As we detoured along Buckley Street, we were told of the proposed to create a medium strip along its centre to be planted with Elm Trees or possibly Gladitsia Trees (Sunburnt Trees or Locust Trees as in Church Street) and to eredt large bulb lights similar to those in Church Street.

That being the end of the tour, we were returned to our cars in Traralgon where David Langmore and our bus driver were thanked for a very informative and enjoyable day.

Jane Purbrick.

The following poem was sent to Jane from Dorothy Farrow, author unknown, that she learnt at school and reflects both the talk and excursion.

..../8

CHILDS SONG IN SPRING

The silver birch is a dainty lady,
She wears a satin gown.
The elm tree makes the churchyard shady,
He will not live in town.

The English oak is a sturdy fellow,
He gets his green coat late.
The willow's smart in a suit of yellow,
While brown the beech trees wait.

Such a gay, green gown God gave the larches,
As green as he is good.
The hazels hold up their arms for the arches,
When spring rides through the wood.

The chestnuts proud, the lilac's pretty,
The poplar's slender and tall,
But the plane tree's kind to the poor, dull city.

I love him best of all.

OVERBURDEN REHABILITATION COMMITTEE MEETING

On June 20th committeemen were taken by bus to inspect the work in progress at Yallourn North Extended Open Cut on a glorious sunny morning. Although the Coal Corporation need some coal faces left open for sampling, and that the past season had been very dry, a great deal has been accomplished. Many of the old overburden battens have been tidied up and seed sown: the distribution of clay down the coal faces for fire suppression has progressed very well: most of the equpiment which had been used in the Cut has either been sold as productive plant or disposed of as scrap. Indeed having not seen the site for several years, it was hard to recognise.

The Committee journeyed to Yallourn Open Cut offices for morning tea(those who have been on recent APM Forest trips would understand if I said it was adequate).

Mr Fraser, Mine Manager Yallourn, then outlined to us the Master Plan for rehabilitating the Yallourn Open Cut. During the next 8 years it is anticipated that all of the winable coal from the existing open cut will have been mined. During this time an increasing amount is to be mined from the East Field. Much of the overburden from the East Field will be put into the old cut. The morphology of the existing country side admits that the neccessity of placing a considerable quantity at the base of Coach Road hill to stabilize it, can be used to advantage.

..../5

Overburden Rehabilitation Committee Meeting cont....

The cut may not be able to be filled, but a depression left in the middle which becomes a lake, would not appear out of place. The main thrust of the operations, is to put as much material in its final place as possible as it is dug, and not have to re-handle it again!.

Mr Frazer further outlined some of the potential of landscaping the area. These several landscape aspects were then demonstrated to us when we ascended the visitors viewing area near the freeway. Travellers on the freeway expect to see some large plant stations and workings down vistas between floral plantings, but were to be spared the sight of our present moonscape.

F. J. Blucher
LVFNC inc

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 22/7/91

8 members present 3 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (of Interest).

1. Calignee Sth Rd/Sunday Rd SECV block. Mr Paul Devlin [illegible] rather than Mr Chiffers is handling the matter and will be in touch with Secretary.

finance; Balance: Cheque Acc. $883.10
Investment Acc. $2438.93
Conservation Acc. $1240.54

CORRESPONDENCE: Matters arising. Water Quality News will seek permission to put excerpts in Naturalist.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Name Tags. Norma Rees can obtain improved name tags for $2.50

CONSERVATION COORDINATORS REPORT:

Have been in contact with DCE Yarram re Blackberry trial, no response yet.
Purchased Proposed Management Plan for Wilson's Prom Marine Park. Submission due 30th Sept.
Purchased Final LCC Recommendations for Rivers and Streams.
Report in local newspaper that Botany Department of LaTrobe University is launching a study of remnant Red Gum Woodlands, focusing on areas of public land between Traralgon and Bairnsdale.

Next meeting 19th August 1991 7.30pm YHCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: Ken Savage
David Stickney

..../10

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr. D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

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Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

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Hon. Editor
Mrs Anne Bailey
9 Ellinbank street
Newborough 3825
Phone 051 276501.

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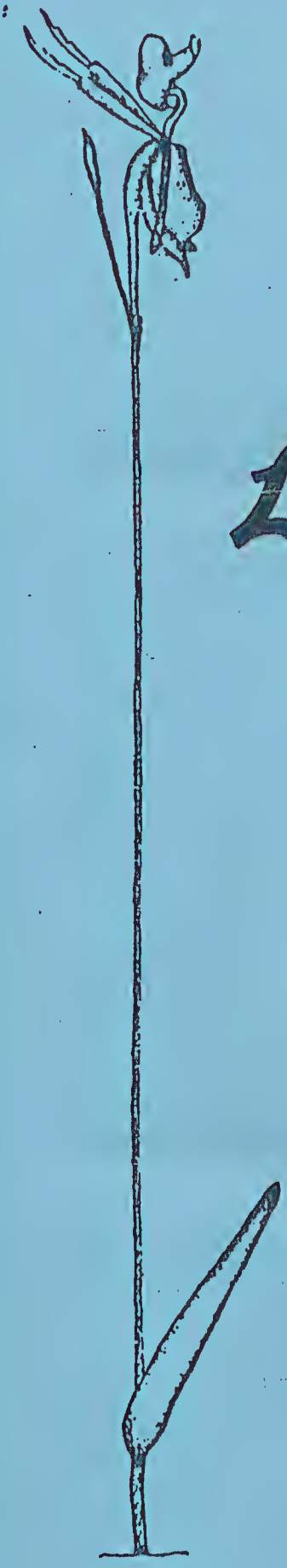
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SEPTEMBER 1991

ISSUE No. 333



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 333 SEPTEMBER 1991

LVFNC INC.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Friday 27th September 7.30pm

Speaker: Ian Lunt on "Remnant Grasslands and Woodlands in Gippsland.

Excursion: Meet outside Traralgon High School, Liddiard Rd. at 10am. Saturday 28th September.

BIRD GROUP

Excursion: Monday 7th October.
Toongabbi area.
Meet at "The Oasis" Toongabbi.
10am

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

October 20th: We propose to visit a Friends group at their area of interest and see first hand the problems and projects of the group. We have a few suggestions but feel it may be best left until after the conference to make the final decision Secretary Ph. 92 4547. Ranger Ph 221478

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 231563

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm SECOND Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. (051) 276751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre,
92 George st Morwell. 3840

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 333 SEPTEMBER 1991.

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROGRAM.

MR DAVID LANGMORE L.R.C.

Mr Langmore expressed his pleasure at being our guest speaker at the May meeting, acknowledging that many people present had been actively interested or involved on various levels in these projects.

He considered his involvement in these projects one of the high points of his career and gave us a brief resume of history in the area. He and his family came here rather relunctantly in the early seventies with his employment with the A. P. M. However they came to enjoy the area and appreciate its potential. This resulted in his returning to Melbourne and doing a course on Town Planning with the thought in mind that this, and better landscaping, could make the Latrobe Valley an even more attractive place.

After completing the course he returned here to a new job with the Town and Country Planning Board at the beginning of what proved to be a very active period of development in the Valley. In 1984 The Latrobe Regional Commission was established and he got a job with them with the hope in mind that such a group could co ordinate ideas for the improvement of the Latrobe Valley landscape. With this thought he prepared a submission for the Greening of the Valley looking towards a Bicentennial Grant. The proposal passed through several stages but never eventuated. Another couple of submissions fared similarly. However,in 1989, at the instigation of Craig Wilson, Manager of the Ministry for Planning and Environment for Gippsland, from their Traralgon office, a proposal for jointly funding the services of Canadian landscape architect Proffessor Alex Rattray to the Valley was made.
Through funding by the S.E.C., L.R.C., Ministry for Planning and Environment, and Nubrik, Prof. Rattray came out and his spark of enthusiam convinced people of the importance of this type of undertaking, particularly the argument that landscaping is good for business. Prof. Rattray made a visual presentation to the Commission, and later when some money became available the L.R.C. requested David make up a quick plan as to how $2000 ,000 could best be used. This was the beginning of the landscaping program for improving the Latrobe Valley and now we are starting to see some of the results although the work of the last two years will not be fully appreciated for ten, maybe fifteen years as such undertakings are long term.

David then proceeded to illustrate many of the points he had made with a set of slides inviting comments or questions from the audience. As there were a large number of slides the following is an overall view of the variety of subjects the shown and also the observations made.

..../1

Landscape Management Planning Program cont....

SLIDES:

David opened with an aerial view of our area pointing out the hills and mountains to the north, the central broad valley and the Strezleckis and South Gippsland Hills.
Individual slides shown included our snowfields, streams, and waterfalls, outdoor recreation areas and picnic spots, the rolling hills of South Gippsland, the potato farming areas of Thorpdale and Narracan, fine plantings of trees and old buildings. He further commented that most peoples image of the area is not very attractive but even industry in certain settings and light presents an impressive visual image.

Many of the slides demonstrated "before and after" views of places quite familiar to most of us:-

* the eastern entry to Morwell and the Morwell Hill of 15 years ago bare and unkempt with no natural vegetation, the Char Plant, view of Art Centre from Latrobe Road, lacking anything to promote it visually, areas of poor existing landscape as in Alexander Rd., and the need to soften the impact of the Railway Shed in Morwell. Offsetting this were views of the Church St. and Tarwin St. Morwell "examples of landscape enhancement in commercial areas". These were model projects resulting from Alex Rattray's first involvement with the Latrobe Valley in the early eighties, as was the rotunda in the Victory Park Development.

* slides of Yallourn showing "superb avenues of plane trees", gardens, floral displays were "a credit to any town, any time, any where", David pointed out.

* areas for improvement in various towns were shown. In Moe the Railway Station, subway, Elizabeth St. shopping centre along with Rutherglen Rd. and central Moe areas where plantings of plane trees and the re-siting of a plam tree from Yallourn in Moore St. along with other works have already improved the City's image. The question was raised as to why plane trees were used as opposed to natives. Plane trees are very good in the urban environment and as they are already used in Traralgon and Sale it promotes a sense of regionalism. Part of the overall plan is to have recurring elements throughout the region, with plane trees which give shade in the summer and are open in winter, in the townsbut natives predominationg between towns. Agapanthus plantings in George St. Morwell also raised comment. It was pointed out that Morwell is keen to add colour in their plantings, and these plants have attractive leaves and flowers, are low maintenance and serve as a deterrent to pedestrians, and an attractive foil to the old elm trees. David feels that Morwell has come from being quite an ugly town a few years ago to being quite attractive although it still has a way to go. As much as possible existing stands of natives and exotics are incorporated into the overall plan as on the freeway through Moe where poplars are a feature of one section.

..../2

Landscape Management Planning Program cont.....

SLIDES:

*the traveller's view of our area is the consideration for making as pleasing as possible with striking entrances to our cities and towns making individual impacts and much of the open areas being planted as much as possible with natural vegetation. This is quite a problem in some areas as man-made structures such as railway lines and pylons, roadways, S.E.C. lines, gas mains and telephone lines limit the type of plantings and in many cases inhibit the growth of plants. David particularly commented on the co-operation between the various municipalities, S.E.C and in the industrial areas the businesses too have begun to appreciate that a pleasant environment enhances their site.

Overall the landscaping program is very successful with over 70,000 trees planted in the Latrobe Valley, with dedicated enthusiasts and volunteers doing much of the work under guidance of the experts, and with a pleasing strike rate (90% at Hern"s Oak Hill Wayside Stop for example). Areas still to be worked on are in Trafalgar where an attractive space with mature deciduous trees is already available and the centre of Churchill which is virtually a wasteland but has the potential to be developed into an attractive parkland. At the conclusion of his talk our speaker was thanked for a very intersting and informative presentation on a subject very close to all of us and our President gave him a small gift in appreciation.

Bea. Roberts.

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND ANNUAL CAMPOUT

24th JANUARY TO 27th JANUARY 1992

The annual campout for 1992 is to be held at The Blue Duck Anglers Rest, Omeo which is 30 Klm from Omeo on the Omeo Hwy. Accomodation consists of an attractive ranch style building with a long open verandah. We have reserved 5 of 6 units sleeping 7 and the 3 bedroomed unit sleeping 10. Each unit is fully self contained having its own open fireplace, showers toilet, gas fridge and stove. Cooking utensils, crockery, cultery, doonas and pillows are provided. Linen and towels are not supplied and sleeping bags are recommended for winter months. You will require a torch for late night use as they generate their own power. Cost per night ranges from $10 to $22.50 depending on the number of people in the unit. If we get sufficient numbers the cost should be about $10 per person per night. We are combining with Bairnsdale FNC again this year. Once again we intend to have a catered for dinner on the Sunday night consisting of a 3 course meal with tea, coffee and after dinner nibbles at a cost of $18 per head. Names wil be taken at the Sept. and Oct. meetings when you will fill in your names whether you will be arriving Friday or Saturday and whether you will require dinner on Sunday night. Last Januarys campout was a great success, this one should be even better, so come along!.

ORCHIDS IN SOUTH GIPPSLAND

On Saturday 29th of June, some twenty club members and friends met Ken Bell at the Tarwin road junction on the Sth Gippsland Hwy, 3km west of Meeniyan. Our excursion followed Kens's talk on "Orchids for Beginners" of the previous evening, and it was good to have Ken joined by a neighbouring farmer and fellow orchid enthusiast. Cold weather and intermittent rain and showers did not daunt us, but probably somewhat reduced the amount of field exploration".

Our activities began at the Tarwin junction, with an inspection of the area between the highway and the railway line. Despite this area being water-logged, the large tongue-orchid, Cryptostylis subulata, was very much in evidence. In drier areas leaves of the slender sun-orchid, Thelymitra pauciflora, were to be seen. Of interest during a short walk along the railway line were the swamp casurina and the Gippsland mallee. A special delight was a healthy-looking koala only a few metres from the line, near the top of a small eucalypt and only about two to three metres above the ground.

After lunch at the Thomas Road sand-hill near the Tarwin-Tarwin Lower road, Ken took us to Granny Cashin's Creek to see a profusion of specimens of the nodding greenhood, Pterostylis nutans, and some tall greenhoods, P. longifolia, in flower. Some tall stems of the hyacinth orchid, Dipodium punctatum, displaying dead flowers were also observed. Our final site was the Tarwin Lower Cemetery, located on the northern side of the Tarwin Lower-Inverloch road. The leaves of an incredible variety of orchids were noted here, and it was apparent that a visit in about October would be richly rewarding, both for orchids and other plants. Of interest were the brown beaks orchid, Lyperanthus suaveolens, soon to be in flower, and leaves of the red beak orchid, L. nigricans; also some spider-orchids including the veined variety, Caladenia reticulata.

At the conclusion of the excursion, we expressed our heartfelt thanks to Ken for leading us on such a cold winters day. He later provided andorchid list for the cemetery site, and this is published below.

Philip Rayment.

Native Orchids from Tarwin Lower Cemetery.

Thelymitra pauciflora - slender sun orchid.
Thelymitra ixioides - dotted sun orchid.
Thelymitra rubra - salmon sun orchid.
Thelymitra sp. - probably has a blue flower but never seen open.
Glossodia major - waxlip.
Diuris corymbosa - donkey orchid.
Pterostylis nutans - nodding greenhood.
Caladenia cardiochila - thicklipped spider.
Corybas incurvus - slaty helmet, leaves only.
Acianthus caudatus - mayfly.
Acianthus exsertus - Gnat orchid.
Lyperanthus nigrigans - Red Beaks, leaves only.
Lyperanthus suaveolens - Brown beaks.

Ken Bell.

LANDCARE EXCURSION JULY 1991

On a bitingly cold day in July we were led by Kathy Gosden of the Dept. of Conservation and Environment, Traralgon on an excursion to see Landcare erosion control activities and also a seed handling facility.

First stop was Fell's Creek where gully erosion was quite severe - around 3 metres deep and 30 metres across and extending through several farms. Top soil was very thin (about 50mm) and the underlying yellow clay appeared to be rather soluble. The topography was flat. Unfortunately restoration was made more difficult by the non-involvement of the farmer at the head of the erosion gully. Participating farmers had fenced off erosion to exclude cattle and tree planting had been carried out both on undisturbed fringe areas and on gentler slopes of the erosion gully. Another remedy used was the placement of a band of rocks across the stream bed to encourage siltation. Evidence could also be seen of another erosion process in which surface water poured onto the side walls of the gully and eroded them. The effect was potentially worse near a road because the flow was concentrated in the gutters. However we saw a corrugated metal chute used to drop water from gutter level down to the stream without causing erosion. It was also apparent that the clay walls of the gully were in some places being pounded by the full force of the stream and would need extra protection.

The next stop, in Glenmaggie district, was a more hilly area. Here there was also fairly severe gully erosion in very deep black soil which appeared to be structurally weak when wet especially when cattle traffic and/or climatic conditions removed grass cover. (The area is in a rain shadow which reduces grasscover in summer). 3km of fencing had just been completed to exclude cattle and tree establishment was being proposed with the possibility of a wood lot to obtain some benefit. Students from Rusden College had spent time examining several local farms and were preparing whole farm proposals for consideration.

We were also shown a new Department of Conservation and Environment seed handling facility at Sale, set up with assistance from Landcare groups. Seed pods were being warmed by a bank of lamps to encourage seed release. Sieving would separate trash from the seed which would be stored in a refrigerated room at 2 c to improve shelf life. The facility is available to Landcare groups and others to encourage native seed collection but seed must be well labelled.

The days outing left our group impressed with the need for the erosion control work and with the enthusiasm of our guide.

Ron Carey.

TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

On October 7th at 6 p.m. Interested members are invited to Lorna Longs home, 99 Chamberlain Rd, Newborough to discuss and plan the Clubs program for 1992 after having partaken of a soup and sandwiches etc. tea. These meetings are always very enjoyable and the more that come the more ideas that circulate to give an interesting and varied program for the coming year. Those coming are asked to bring a plate of sanwiches or other goodies, the soup will be provided. This year you have had plenty of notice so put the date in your diary and come and have your say. If you cannot make it you may still fill in the appropriate form at the September meeting and give it to the Secretary then.

COMBINED OCTOBER EXCURSION WITH BAIRNSDALE & DISTRICT F.N.C

Once again we are visiting the Avon - Mt Hedrick Scenic Area on October 12th 1991 only this time we are walking in the western area near Mt Hedrick. L.V.F.N.C. Inc is meeting near the big log in the main street of Heyfield ready to leave for Mt Hedrick at 9.30 am. Be on time as it will take us at least half an hour to reach the meeting point with Bairnsdale club, the picnic area just north of Bill Dog Junction off the end of Millers Road.

VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALIST CLUBS ASSOCIATION CAMP.

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria invites L.VF.N. Club members to the camp to enjoy natural science in the urban environment at The Basin Youth and Convention Centre
151 Basin-Olinda Rd
THE BASIN 3154
The accommodation is in 13 comfortable cabins with 8 bunks in each, in a bushland setting, a camping area is available for those wishing to use tents. A programme is being planned which includes bird watching, geology, botany etc. in the Dandenongs, as well as places futher afield, such as the MMBW Farm Werribee, the Herbarium and the Botanic Gardens. An application form will be forwarded to our club as soon as possible with the programme, after detailed costs have been determined.

A PARDALOTE PARADOX

Spotted Pardalotes are tiny birds, less than 10cm long. They are plump and stocky in build, with short tails. The blunt rather heavy bill is ideal for levering off lerp insects and their covering scales which sit flatly on the leaves of eucalypts. This is their main food, but they also eat other insects and spiders. They dig out narrow, rounded tunnels in banks or on gently sloping ground, and at the end of it build a bark cup to form a nest chamber. It is something of a paradox that birds which spend so much of their time high in tall eucalypts fly into tunnels they make in the ground.
An excerpt from an article by Ellen M. McCulloch, Spring Gardening News Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.

SITE INSPECTIONS FORM A HIGHLIGHT OF JULY MEETINGS

The July meetings of the Ninety Mile Beach Environment Consultative Committee and the Western Gippsland Lakes Wetlands Consultative Committee were held in conjunction with a morning spent touring the treatment ponds at Dutson Downs, viewing the outlet valve to the ocean outfall, then journeying to Delray Beach. Here, the committees inspected construction works on the outfall pipeline and preparation of the final section for placement on the sea bed. The pipeline will extend 1.27 km out to sea from a point measured from the sand dune.

The Lakes Committee also visited Lake Coleman and the discharge site from the Dutson Downs holding basin into the lake. Both Committees feel that they are now better informed and more able to undertake the tasks required of them as a group, as a result of the opportunity to undertake this inspection.

Following the site tours, each Committee was provided with lunch by courtesy of the Latrobe Region Water Authority and the Dutson Ladies. During afternoons business meeting, reports were received from the working Subcommittees and from the Chairman on behalf of the Implementation Committee. Neil Terrill advised that the Implementation Committee was very pleased with the efforts of each participant in meeting their task under the recommendations of the Wastewater Review.

Reprinted from the Gippsland Water Quality News. July 1991.

FMAAC MEETING ON 16th JULY 1991

The principle business was the presentation of computor modelling by Mr P Pearson with the aim of reliably predicting the water yields from catchments. The rate of flow of water is influenced by the amount of timber extracted, the average age of the trees, the type of trees and the altitude of the catchment (which of course controls the average rainfall). After having produce models for the catchments in the mid Gipsland managememt area, these models were then applied to respective stream flows: in a number of cases the model fitted the flow quite well, but a few, notably those for Mitchell and the Loah catchments need further research and refinement of the model.

The main application of these models is to reliably predict whether the particular streams may supply the needs of the projected populations reqirements or not: at the moment timber harvesting in the upper Thompson catchment is being examined very closely because of the small water yield/water requirement gap.

F. J. BLUCHER

..../7

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (8) ISSUE NO 333 SEPTEMBER 1991

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 19/8/91

8 members present 3 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (of interest).

1. Calignee Sth Rd/Sunday Rd SECV block. SECV are going to inspect area and supervise its care until it is taken over by DCE. Information from Mr Paul Devlin. We will be receiving a letter from Mr Brian Eddy.

FINANCE:	Balance:	Cheque Acc.	$988.56
		Investment Acc.	$2438.93
		Conservation Acc.	$1108.06

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. January Campout. Need lists out by Sept. meeting so firm decision by Sept-Oct meeting.

2. Magazine covers-Jim Wall to be asked to print another 6 months for 105 copies per issue.

3. Bird Group reports. J Blucher queried whether reports should should be given each month. Mention Bird Group in Express every so often with contact phone number. Encourage members of bird group to send a note to "Naturalist".

CONSERVATION COORDINATOR'S REPORT.

Five members went to Wirilda to name trees as requested.
Decided to number trees and key to names.
Ian Lunt to see Bon and Ollie Thompson on 1st Sept.
J. Blucher reported on the Rehabilitation Consultative Grou meeting held on 15th August. Report of this to go in "Naturlist".

Next Meeting 23 Sept 1991 7.30pm YHCA Morwell.

Supper Roster: Norma Rees.
Pat Delahay.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

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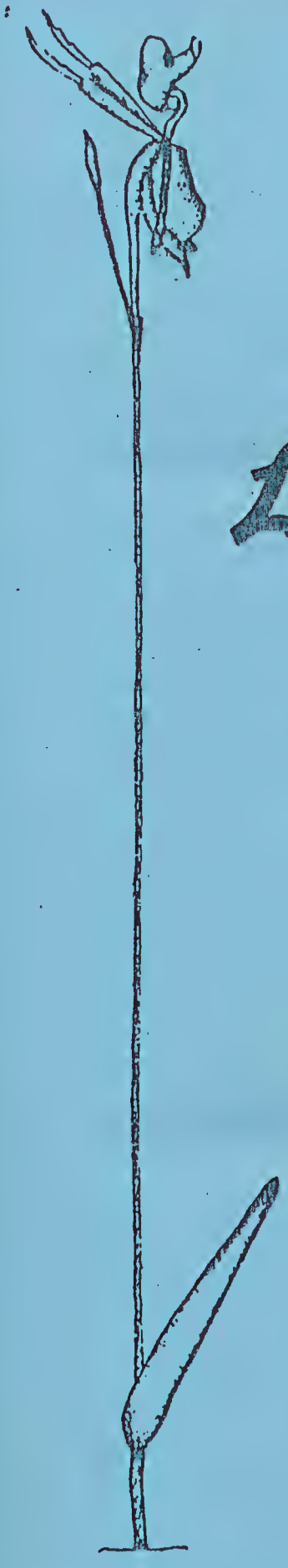
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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST ISSUE NO 334 OCTOBER 1991

LVFNC INC. COMING EVENTS.

Meeting: Friday 25th October. 1.30pm

Speaker: John Armstrong--A Growing Garden of Australian Plants

Excursion: Saturday 26th October. Excursion to Holey Plains Ken Harris to lead group. Meet at Rosedale car park at toilets on Princes Hwy adjacent to Hotel 10am.

BIRD GROUP:

Excursion: Monday 4th October.
Bird observing at Wirilda. Meet 10am at corner of Clark's Rd and Tyers-Yallourn Nth Rd.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

November 17th: Koala Survey and Butterfly Orchid Survey-- Those particularly interested in the orchids please contact Ken. Meet in FosterS Gully. Ken 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 231563

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalvill Rd carpark 1pm SECOND Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. (051) 276751

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 334 OCTOBER 1991

ORCHIDS FOR BEGINNERS.

My main interest is in growing native terrestrial orchids. There are two main types of orchid - the terrestrials which live normally in soil, and the epiphytes living on trees or rocks; epiphytes are not parasitic as they have their own photosynthesis processes. Within the terrestrials we have the saprophytes which are leafless and derive food from rotting organic material eg. Potato orchid, Gastrodia sesamoides, and the Hyacinth orchid Dipodium punctata. One unusual orchid is the underground orchid Rhizanthella, which occurs in W.A. and N.S.W. (reported also from the Dandenong Ra,) and which spends its entire life cycle underground. Worldwide there are about 30,000 species; in Australia some 750 spp in 100 genera and in Victoria about 120 named spp but apparently there are many more yet to be named.

What is an orchid? - it is a perennial herb, a monoctyledon (like grasses, lilies and palms) - the leaf has parallel venation, the leaf base sheaths the stem, and the flower parts come in threes - 3 petals, 3 sepals. The petals and sepals may be alike or very different and usually one is greatly different, the labellum. The male and female parts of the flower are fused into a column. All orchids seem to be dependent upon mycorhyzal fungi in the soil, with perhaps each orchid type dependent upon a different fungus. For this reason may terrestrials cannot as yet be grown in pots.

Considering the terrestrials now: They grow from a small fleshy but brittle swollen root, a tuberoid; this is used for storage and resting purposes. When the plant starts to grow a shoot forms from the tuberoid and produces a stem and the flowering parts, whilst underground a new tuberoid forms for the next season and, in many cases, daughter tuberoids also form giving a type of vegetative reproduction. Not all orchids form a flower head each year, and the reason for this is unknown. Some orchids have the ability to produce new tuberoids underground for several years without producing any above ground parts - this is possibly a drought defence mechanism, however the tuberoids become smaller and weaker and may eventually die. The potting mix comprises 1 part rich loam, 2 coarse sand (2-4mm), 1 leaf mould an 1 buzzar chips - the mixture must be free draining as tuberoids are easily rotted. The flowers are highly variable and their shapes give rise to the common names - duck orchids, helmets, tongue orchids, ect. After pollination, seed capsules form very rapidly - these are swellings below the flower, usually green but slowly turn brown and split releasing below the flower 1000's of small seeds. The seeds are about 1mm long and have no food storage tissues as in a bean seed for example. Very few seeds survive and grow to flowering stage.

There is much to be learned yet about the pollination of our orchids. Most have an intricate method of pollination to ensure cross-pollination; because of the complex nature of some adaptations (eg Cryptostylis, the tongue orchid, is fertilized) by an Ichneumonid wasp but in C. leptochila it lands right way up and backs down into the flower to pollinate, but in C. subulata the wasp must land upside down before backing into the flower)

..../1

Orchids for beginners cont....

orchids must have had a long evolutionary history. Pollination can be effected by birds, beetles, moths, bees/wasps and flies; they may be attracted by bright colours, odours, moving parts, mimicry and/or the presence of nectar. Self-pollination also occurs - some orchids do not open at all, or if they do, self-pollination has occurred prior, eg some Thelymitras, while some species only use self-pollination if insect visits were unsuccessful.

Books: Jones, D.L. Native Orchids of Australia (Reed, 1988) the present "bible". Woolcock, Colin and Dorothy, Australian Terrestrial Orchids (Nelson, 1984). Cultivation of Australian Native Orchids, Australasian Native Orchid Society Victorian Group, 1988; available from the Secretary, A.N.O.S. Vict. Group. P.O. Box 285, Cheltenham, 3192. (about $10).

Ken Bell.

THE EXCURSION THAT WASN'T.

Perhaps it would be incorrect to say that the Field Naturalist Excursion of the 24th August was cancelled, for like the Unfinished Symphony it did at least have a beginning. Five people turned up at the meeting place - the two would-be leaders and their loyal spouses, and our intrepid President Jane. However cancelled (or aborted) the excursion certainly was. This was decided unanimously after some scuttling from car to car in the icy wind and rain. Admittedly I was the only one who did not budge from the comfort of our car, but even in that position of advantage my binoculars kept smogging up with the warmth generated from my eyeballs!.

So let no-one feel guilty about failing to put in an appearance. Be assured that it was with dismay that we saw a solitary late car arriving just as we were about to depart homeward. However, as a result of Jodies's scintillating talk to the Club on the previous night about fresh-water crayfish, this family were under the impression that we were all to go yabbing! We were sorry to disappoint the children- and envied their youthful enthusasm.

As we drove home the sun came out momentarily and what looked like white clouds lying low on the gloomy southern horizon proved to be great patches of snow along the lenth of the Strzelecki Ranges. Looking north to the inky, sullen skyline in the direction of where we might have been heading, I was remided of an old Latrobe Valley forecast for this kind of weather - "If you can see the Baw Baw's its going to rain, If you can't see them, its raining"!. So no picnic lunch today at Moondarra, but home to toasted sandwiches and hot soup, and listening to the Footie by the fireside.

June Lubcke.

..../2

Report to L.V.F.N.C. inc. on Rehabilitation Consultative Group meeting held at C.C.V. offices at 10am on 15 August 1991.

Mr Eddy:- Yallourn Open Cut strategy plan out for comment, R.S.V.P. Sept 1st.

Mr Pilkington reported on Yallourn North Extended Open Cut:-

* an interim rehabilitation plan is being developed.
* it is important to analyse sources of run-off so that tree planting may be trialed so that effluent quality may be improved with the resulting E.P.A. licence not so stringent.
* "Australian Trust for Conservation volunteers" will be in the Valley soon and if suitable seed is available, direct seeding trials may be conducted.

Mr Cole reported on Loy Yang:-

* currently overburden removal is from block one, next year probably from block two.
* overburden dump rehabilitation details being finalised.
* run-off drains and fire-breaks now well grassed.
* overburden dump rock-lined drains on steep gradients are performing very well.
* effects of run-off near the bunkers is responding to treatment.
* some works areas localities, other than designated wet lands, are very wet and special species of tree seeds being sought for planting in these areas.

Mr Butcher presented an overview of the impressive rehabilitation achievements in the Yallourn East Field - brochure to hand.

Mr Noy reported on tree planting joint ventures in the Strzieckis, where S.E.C.V. is party to A.P.M. and A.C.T.V. activities. The $130 million expenditure reported in the press if analysed only represents the current rate of total expenditure currently to be committed to "Greening the Valley".

Publicity:-

* the Groups P.R. exercises need to be upgraded.

Practices manual:- a sub-committee has been formed to suggest what locally generated appendicies need adding to the Australian Mining Industry Council handbook to make it more applicable to S.E.C. L.V. practice.

F. J. Blucher
Delegate.

Friends of Edward Hunter Bush Heritage Reserve, recently held a seed gathering day which was well attended and enjoyed by all. A nobbly old HAKEA seed pod - who would have thought that, when it split, inside would be a charming colour combination of cream and tan and indentations holding black and charcoal-grey seeds.

Dulcie Sambell.

..../3

1080 AWARENESS

At the invitation of AMCOR Forests, several Club members attended a lecture and field excursion on Wednesday afternoon the 24/7/91.

The aims of the exercise were:

1. to set out the details of the research into tree guards which had been purchased.(nearly a dozen kinds of guards)

2. to explain the zoological details determined during controlled exercises.

3. to demonstrate the continuing democratic approach the Company exercises during its operations.

4. to show the methods and details of the installation of the guards to the seedlings in the field, both to eucalyptus and pine plantings.

The cost of setting up the exercise exceeds $100,000 to date,
The cost of tree guards only range from about $700 to $5000 per hectare of trees.
The cost of installation of guards to be determined during the trial.

. . . .
NB some guards restrict the trees growth.
Some guards don't meet the manufacturers claims.
Some guards will need to be removed/collected later.
This trial is "large" by world standards.

F. J. Blucher.

OOPS - The article in Septembers issue of the Naturalist on Landscape Management Planning Program by David Langmore page 1 paragraph 3 should read " and later when some money became available the L.R.C. requested David make a quick plan as to how $200,000 could be best used".

THE GYMEA LILY

During late September I travelled to N.S.W. on a family holiday. Driving through Royal National Park near Sydney a large red flowered plant claimed the attention of the travellers. The plant was rather tall and came from a cluster of large leaves at ground level. The plant was Gymea Lily Doryanthes excelsa.

The spectacular red flowers on their tall spikes were a surprise for me, I had not seen the plant before. I could only guess at what they were, but my guess was correct. On consulting my books when I was at home, I was relieved to know that we can remember things from the past!.. It was a pleasure to see these beautiful flowers in their natural state. I hope to see them again sometime.

Lorna M Long.

..../4

Report to LVFNC inc of FMAAC meeting held 17th Sept. 1991

A review of progress demonstrated that while the shortage of funds was affecting many aspects of C & E work right across the state, the Otway group had a draft document out for comment and,

* the mid-Gippsland committees work on timber/water relationships was well advanced.
* our flora & fauna work was slowed as a consequence of funding cuts reducing the number of specialists working in this area,
* L.C.C. "Melbourne area Descriptive Report - district 2 review" is available and is a very useful resource document.

The evenings main work centred on pest animals and plants found in or adjacent to public lands: a very useful list has been prepared by the Otway group, and it was suggested that goats, cats, and Indian Myna Acridotheres tristis be added. "Noxious weeds of Victoria" by W.T. Parsons is a useful text on the subject of pest plants.

The committee resolved that priorities be set so as to optimise the use of our reduced funds to achieve the best results. Possibly the best results may be achieved by developing biological controls. Pest birds and fish warrant special attention: the problem of native animals becoming pests in plantations is already being addressed. It appears that local infestations of insects are best controlled by their natural enemies. Of more concern is the spread of various destructive fungi and the introduction of pest plants, both quite often by the visitors and machines or animals traversing otherwise "clean" areas.

F. J. Blucher
Committeman.

The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria is hosting the VFNCA Campout on the Labour Day weekend in March, 1992.

VENUE: THE BASIN YOUTH AND CONVENTION CENTRE, 151 The Basin-Olinda Rd, Basin.

DATES: 6pm Friday 6th March to 2pm Monday 9th March.

COSTS: Adult: $90 per head (full accommodation)Children who use own cots are free. Casual meals are available on booking. Visitors other than those being accommodated, are charged $1. Bus transport to some venues.

ACCOMMODATION- In comfortable 8-bed cabins, with toilet and shower block close by. Pick your own room on arrival, from 6pm on. Bring a sleeping bag or your own bed linen and pillow and all personal requirements. A roster will be arranged to cover duties such as setting and clearing tables, washing up and cleaning rooms. All meals provided including supper. NO MEAL PROVIDED FRIDAY EVENING, however if you wish to bring your own meat, a coin-in-the-slot barbecue is available, from 6pm on.

As the Dandenongs, especially the Dandenong Tourist Road, could be busy on the Moomba long weekend we have arranged bus transport to some places at an extra charge, rather than having a convoy of cars.

.../5

VFNCA Campout, Labour Day weekend cont....

PROGRAM.

SATURDAY: All day excursion to National Herbarium; lunch in Botanic Gardens; Westgate Wetlands; by bus. Fare $12
All day excursion on Geology and Associated Vegetation of the Dandenongs and Mt Dandenong Observatory, with Geologists Noel Schleiger and Jack Douglas, and Botanist Hilary Weatherhead; by BUS ONLY Fare $12.
AM Half day excursion to Chandlers Hill mainly birds.

SUNDAY: All day excursion to MMBW Farm, Werribee-Waders, by BUS ONLY. Fare $13

MONDAY: AM Half day excursion by private vehicle to Studley Park-geology and urban forests with Noel Schleiger.

Booking forms are available from Secretary, closing date 7th February 1992. Ms Dorothy Mahler. Sec. VFNCA.

SECV PLANNING A 10 YEAR WATER AND WASTEWATER STRATEGY.

Both the Ninety Mile Beach Environment Consultative Committee and the Western Gippsland Lakes Wetlands Consultative Committee will be involved in the consultation process whereby the SECV is seeking comment from the regional community on issues relating to wastewater discharges from its Power Station areas within the Latrobe Valley.

The SECV is reviewing its current practices and the procedures which it uses in handling water and wastewater as part of an ongoing process to ensure that the Commission uses water wisely and efficiently, and that the wastewater leaving works' areas has minimal impact on local streams. The review will play a major role in the development of a 10 year SEC Latrobe Valley water and wastewater strategy which helps to fulfill the Commission's area of responsibility recommended under the Latrobe Valley Wastewater Review.

Within the next few weeks the SEC will have available a brief document describing the Commission's Latrobe Valley water usage and handling processes. This will be available to interest groups and individuals as a basis for them to raise issues and make comment. Comments received will be taken into consideration when establishing the direction of more detailed discussions as the review process progresses. The contact person at SECV is Trevor Rowe who can be reached on 353170 for further details.

Printed from the August 1991 Gippsland Water Quality News.

..../6

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 27/09/91

6 members present 5 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (of interest)

1. Calignee Sth Rd/Sunday Rd SECV block to be left in abeyance for 6 months so that Bon & Ollie can organise flora surveys to present to DC & E.

FINANCE:

Balance:	Cheque Acc.	$993.25
	Investment Acc.	$2438.93
	Conservation Acc.	$1108.06

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. January Campout at Anglers Rest. Need lists out by Sept. meeting so firm decision by Sept/Oct. meeting.

2. "Naturalist" production. After discussion decided to look at various ways of producing magazine with view to changing to another method as Gestetner stencils are getting hard to get.

3. Guzzardi building shooting lodge in wetlands near Rosedale J. Blucher letter in Express.

3. Motion: That we put our name on Wildlife Protection (Regulation of exports & imports Act 1982) J. Blucher/ B Thompson.

CONSERVATION COORDINATORS REPORT.

Received:
1. Latrobe Region Water Authority Bulletin Vol 1 Arranged for future copies to go to Lorna Long.
2. Copy of Bairnsdale FNC submission nominating Prasophyllumchasmoganum for listing under Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act. Request that we support above recommendation for listing.
3. Re Forest Management Plan for Yarra Forests-statement of resources, uses and values and asking for comments.
4. LCC descriptive report of Melbourne Study area District No 2 review. Submissions due 25/11/91.
5. Information sheets on Target 2000 from CCV and DCE.
6. Draft copy of Proposed Management Plan for Wilsons Promontary Marine Park.

Neil Ward, DCE Yarram, notified us that a file has been set up for the Blackberry trials and suggested the surveys be carried out twice a year in spring and app. Feb when blackberries are prevalent.
John Missen, SECV, rang re remainder of original Traralgon St Reserve. To be inspected at convenient date to consider fencing area.
DCE Traralgon notified us that the Shingle Creek Reserve has been officially declared a reserve and the department will draw up a management plan. Jime Blucher reported on FNAAC meeting he attended.
Next Meeting 21st October 1991 7.30pm YMCA Morwell.
SUPPER: Madge Vinell, Beatrice Roberts.

..../7

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Coyvarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Hon. Editor
Mrs Anne Bailey
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Newborough 3825
Phone 051 276501.

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NOVEMBER 1991

ISSUE N⁄ 335

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LVFNC INC. COMING EVENTS

Meeting: Friday 22nd November 7.30pm

Speaker: John Steel - Macquarie Island.

Excursion: Saturday 23rd November. Labertouche excursion. Meet 10am on Labertouche road after we turn off from Princes Hwy. Joint excursion with Botany Group from FNC of Vic.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK.

December 15th: B.B.Q. & Spotlight walk -- BYO meat and drinks plus salad & sweet to share. Meet in Fosters Gully at 7pm.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph. (056) 231563.

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE.

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm SECOND Tuesday of each month Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. (051) 276751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: FOURTH Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Skill Share
Howard st
Traralgon.

BIRD GROUP

Excursion: Monday 2nd December
Bird Observing at Wirilda.
Meet 10 am at corner of Clarks Rd and Tyers-Yallourn Nth Rd.

HOLEY PLAINS STATE PARK EXCURSION

LED BY KEN HARRIS 26/10/91

Twenty one members attended the excursion on a day of sharp showers and some sunshine. The varying forest types and the history of the Park were explained. The main floral display was the Silky Teatree Leptospermun myrsinoides, sometimes a delicate pink, and the Wedding Bush Ricinocarpos pinifolius.

We stopped to look at the reserve proclaimed by the Rosedale Shire app. 30 years ago to protect the rare Mintbush and to admire many species of flowers along Wildflower Track. The Sticky Boronia B. aneoniflolia was present and the brilliant red of the Correa reflexa was most admired.

Harrier Swamp provided a glimpse of a Swamp Harrier and the walk around the swamp enabled many flowers to be identified, including 5 orchids and 3 lilies. Lunch at Harrier Swamp picnic area was frequently interrupted by the presence of a Scared Kingfisher which stayed close by in the trees throughout lunchtime. We thought it may have a nest nearby but it kept the secret well. The boys explored the swamp area and found spiders that jumped into the water, at least 2 species of Grasshoppers and heard many frogs but didn't see any.

Ken guided us round two boundaries of the park so we were able to get some idea of its size. On South Boundary Track we were shown plants of the rare Mintbush; but this plant is very platable to the animals. Further on a highlight of the day was an area where the Mintbush was the dominant species. Down to Long Swamp to observe the Crimson Bottlebrush Callistemon citrinus and the Leafless Globe Pea Sphaerolobium vimineum.
At Holey Hill on the walk Ken was able to find again the nest of the White-throated Nightjar. Just one egg placed on a few dead leaves. We did not see the bird. Also on the walk we saw a few plants of the rare Pomaderris humilis which has been recently named. While the adults had a cuppa the boys found a wallaby watching us all. The final stop for the day was for the duck orchids, both the Large and Small Duck-orchids were in bud.

Jim Blucher thanked Ken on everyone's behalf for a very interesting day. Orchids recorded for the day were:-

Waxlip Glossodia major.
Tiger Orchid Diuris sulphurea.
Nodding Greenhood Pterostylis nutans.
Tall Greenhood P. longifolia all in flower.
Two Duck Orchids and the leaves of a Helmet Orchid and a Gnat Orchid.
The Lilies were:-
Rush Lily Sowerbaea junces.
Twining Fringe-lily Thysanotus patersonii.
Dwarf Wire-lily Laxmannia sessiliflora.
Black-anthered Flax-lily Dianella revoluta.
Chocolate Lily Dichopogon strictus.
Early Nancy Wurmbea dioica.
The rare Mintbush does not have a name yet as far as I know.

Bon Thompson.

A GROWING GARDEN

Just like plants a garden grows and changes form over the years. Our garden changed as we learnt more about plants and our needs and interests developed over the past 28 years. The development of surrounding areas have altered our environment and had a marked influence during the period.

The house and garden were built in the 'wild' area of an older garden which had been divided into 10 small suburban allotments. A few years after we started in 1963 we had the opportunity to buy an adjoining block extening the garden to the next street, this area had been the 'orchard' area of the original home. Both Beth and I had come from 'Victorian' type garden backgrounds with massed exotic flower borders, so this influenced the initial planning with lawns and borders under the background of eucalypts and pittosporums (which had provided a hedge around the original property). Just after moving into the house in 1964, we went on a garden tour of native plant gardens organized by BLACKBURN TREE PRESERVATION SOCIETY and were most impressed with the wealth of colour and variety found in the native plants.

The original design of the front garden was unsuccessful due to shade produced by the surrounding trees and the root competion, while rain water dropping from leaves wore the grass away on the slopping area. Changes to slopes stopped the wearing away but broke the visual flow of the garden from the living room windows. Planting of a Eucalyptus forestiana in what was thought to be a sunny area soon proved another wrong decision, as the lovely 'little' fern leafed Acacia elata that we had left when clearing for the house soon grew from a shrub to a large tree soon 40' tall with a spread of 20' so providing in a few years dense shade over the whole area. With the removal of the Acacia we gained some sunlight and replanted the garden in semi-shade loving plants, Phebalium scanulosum, Epacris impressa, Pomaderris pilifera, Prostanther melissifolia, Correa baeuerlenii were all quite successful. At this stage we changed the terrace wall and broke through with an 8' wide set of steps, this gave lots of space for plants to scramble over the sides to soften them and still leave room for a clear pathway. This restored the view of the garden from the house.

The rear garden enjoying all the north sun, except for an area near the house where many Pittosporums, Eucalypts and Acacias made a natural area for ferns and is incidentally the least changed area. The open area was planned to give a long vista from the living areas of the house diagonally across the garden with enclosed areas either side, one to a vegetable plot. The trees and shrubs along the vista were planned to be taller near the house and reduce away from the house to give the illusion of greater space by a false perspective visually lengthening the garden. A curve in the vista was to block off the view through the rear gateway of any housing developed there in the future. Due to unknown old agricultural drains feeding water to the Acacia pravissima it grew huge and destroyed the plan. Ferns were planted under it in thewet area and thrived until exposed when the acacia blew down. Nearby the Banksia spinulosa thought to only grow 6' soared to 25' with a wide spread to 20' necessitating redevelopement to cope with the shade.

The rest of this article will be printed in Decembers Naturalist.

John Armstrong.

SCARLET HONEYEATER.

About the last week in October I noticed a small bird in the scarlet bottlebrush in my front yard, he was exactly the same colour as the blossoms. I thought straight away 'robin' then realized his black curved beak clearly identified him as a honeyeater. A small bird, bright red over the head and shoulders and down to the breast meeting underneath to the palest buff with dark back and wing feathers. I hear that there has been sightings of the Scarlet Honeyeater at Tyers and would be pleased to hear from anyone who may have seen this bird, as it is unusual to find them in this area. I only saw him for about five days and have not seen him since.

Pat Delahay.

DECEMBER SEMINAR ON LAKE COLEMAN

A major proposal from the October meeting of the Wellington Wetlands Consultative Committee involves the presentation of a Public Seminar to be held at the Continuing Education Centre Raymond st Sale on December 12, at 9.30 am.
The Seminar will be a full day presentation with a series of talks covering the history of Lake Coleman, contributing factors to the present state of the wetlands area and an investigation of some of the options for future management. There will be a short question period after each presentation, and members of the public will be encouraged to submit written comments and ideas to the Consultative Committee following the Seminar. This aims to help in the Committee's task of presenting to Government a series of options for future management by the end of June, 1992.
Guest Speakers will include noted local Ecologist, Charles McCubbin and Dr Tony Wong, from Monash University. Registrations of interest can be made by contacting the Executive Officer, Wellington Wetlands Committee on (051) 746166.
Printed from Gippsland Water Quality News Oct. 1991

THE AMATEUR BOTANIST

Who would be an amateur botanist?. Don't try unless you are prepared to laugh at yourself.
Recently I collected a specimen of a water plant with 'bladders' on it. I brought it home and placed it in water to identify it. After a few days there were tadpoles in the water. But fortunately all the 'bladders' were not frogs eggs as 'seeds' were developing in some of the 'bladders'. I could not identify the plant so decided to send it away for identification. I mounted the wet specimen on paper in readiness. The next morning the plant had dried out and it was obvious that it was one of the green algae. When dry it showed it was only one cell thick and the 'bladders' had also dried out. The 'bladders' were probably just mucus to protect the developing plant. I think it is one of the Chara family of algae but do not have the books to go any further.

Bon Thompson.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (4) ISSUE NO 335 NOVEMBER 1991

EXCURSIONS TO THE AVON-MT. HEDRICK SCENIC RESERVE

13TH OCTOBER 1990 AND 12TH OCTOBER 1991

The Avon-Mt. Hedrick Reserve is situated north-west of Maffra in the foothills of the Victorian Alps. Its area of 5700 hectares is mainly dry open forest and is dissected by the Avon River in the north. Our two excursions looked at the east and west sections of the Reserve and were combined excursions with the Bairnsdale FNC, whose President James Turner is a frequent visitor to the area. James was our leader on both occasions and gave us the benefit of his detailed knowledge of the plants in the Reserve.

On our first excursion last year we met at the Nicholson Rock car park and walked down ito the Nicholson Creek gorge, which is a moist gully with tree ferns and blackwoods. The Blue Olive-berry Elaeocarpus reticulatus was growing along the river in the gully, and is a very attractive tree with its dark shiny leaves and deep blue berries. A pretty Rock Fern Cheilanthes sp. grew amongst the the rocks along the track, and I was quite surprised to see it growing on the top of Mt Hedrick a year later in the dry ground beside some rocks.

After lunch we drove along Green Hill Road, stopping on occasions to view interesting plants. I had little trouble identifying the Rock Waxflower Eriostemon trachyphyllus for its similarity to the popular garden wax plant, both having oil glands along their stems and numerous pinky-white flowers. We saw tne different orchids this day and the one I remember best was Caledenia alba which looked like a white Pink Fingers. The Channel Overlook gave views of the Avon River far below, and many new plants grew in this drier area. The Golden Grevillea Grevillea chrysophaea and the Grey Everlasting Helichrysum obcordatum were both flowering abundantly.

In order to further explore this new and diverse Reserve it was decided to have our next years joint excursion to the west side. This time we met at the car park in the far west corner of the Reserve, below Mt Hedrick. We were blessed with a lovely sunny day with a balmy breeze, and we were regaled by a spotted pardalote and a shining bronze cuckoo as we had our morning cuppa. We didnt see them, but June Lubcke identified them by sound as they flitted high above us in the trees. Before lunch we had a short walk from a point along the road amongst the wealth of different flowering plants. The most prevalent flower this day was the Nodding Blue-lily Stypandra glauca. It was growing everywhere we went, all day, just as the blue flowering Tasman Flax-lily Dianella tasmanica had been on our excursion a year ago.

I tried to learn a little about pea flowers, as there were many to look at, but I find their similarity in colour very confusing and no help to the memory at all. The Showy Parrot-pea Dillwynia sericea was one I should remember after Don pointed out the parrot pea flower's characteristic of being twice as wide as it is deep. It's amazing that two different families can both have lovely little orange-yellow pea flowers with delicate dark lines in the centre of such similar shape and pattern as I found Daviesia latifolia and Pultenaea daphnoides to have.

Excursion to the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve cont....

Dodonaea boroniifolia was an unusual looking plant - its leaves reminded me of the bidgee-widgee and it had the typical dodonaea papery winged seeds thickly along its stem.

After lunch we set off on the 3km return trip to the top of Mt Hedrick. We walked up a pleasant shaded track dotted with sandstone rocks and ledges. The rocks were studded with smooth rounded river pebbles of many types which protruded from them, the softer sandstone having worn away around them. They looked as if you could pull them out, but they were stuck fast even when only a small part of the pebble was embedded. The ground was sprinkled with pebbles which had worn out of the sandstone and strangely, some of the white quartz pebbles had split cleanly in two. We looked down on Lake Glenmaggie as the track traversed the southern side of the mountain, then the upper reaches of the track moved across th the northern side, affording magnificent views of Ben Cruachan and the surrounding Alps. A purple flowering Daisy-bush Olearia adenophora was quite common up here, but apparently this is one of the few areas where it grows. A low growing Heath-myrtle Hiromyrtus ciliata was flowering profusely amongst the rocks at the summit, its branches being completely covered in little pink and white flowers, making a lovely show against the brown sandstone.

The many pairs of sharp eyes in our party ensured a constant supply of small orchids to examine. We saw ten different types for the day. The Bird Orchid Chiloglottis trapeziformis is particularly hard to see amongst its surrounds, but on close examination is truly beautiful. A single Ruddy-hood Pterostylis rufa grew in a scrap of dirt between two large flat rocks near the summit.

Birds were hardly heard and not seen during the heat of the day as we toiled up the hill, but Ollie notice that a fallen sapling across the track had actually been felled by black cokatoos. large grub hole across the break and the signs of beaks tearing the bark and wood to get at the grub had probably weakened the tree allowing it to blow down easily. Another interesting find was a hole to accomodate a parrot that had been pecked out of a gum tree only about a metre from the ground, which was littered with the small fresh chips.

Our descent was fairly steep as we wound down past sandstone cliffs through quite dry rocky sections. At the bottom of the mountain we walked through welcome shade, and saw a couple of Mountain Grey Gums growing in the creek contrasting with the stringybarks, Boxes and yertchuks that characterised the dry sclerophyll forest we had seen all day.

October seems to be an ideal time to visit the Avon-Mt Hedrick Scenic Reserve, judging by the superb show of flowering plants and pleasant sunny weather we enjoyed on both our excursions.

Wendy Savage.

EXCURSION TO CHILTERN FOREST,

TOWER HILL AND DONKEY HILL.

The weather was fine with some cloud but no wind as we left Beechworth about 1.30pm. Down the Beechworth hills the roadsides were bright with Dog Wattle, A. buxafolia, a very rich golden colour. Down on the flat country we saw lots of Varnish wattle A. Verniciflua, in our area it has very large bobbles. We turned right 1klm from Chiltern township and were soon in an Ironbark, E. sideroxyln, forest with understorey very different from the hills. As soon as we stepped out of the car we saw Pink Fingers, Caladenia carnea, everywhere. They were sprinkled all through the undergrowth and in clusters on open ground and under trees. We saw thousands, mostly paler than in the hills but some were a rich pink. As we wandered along, trying not to tread on any, we found the lovely little Blue Caladenia C. caerulea, always a joy to find and so pretty among the pink ones. We saw Leopards, Diuris maculata, hundreds of them some had 3 or 4 stems of bloom from one plant. Then one of us found the first waxlips, Glossodia major, a very rich purple. We found many stems of buds of the Brown Beard, Calochilus robertsonii, but none open until we drove to Donkey Hill there we found one open,,a lovely iridescent purple brown beard. The only Eggs and Bacon in flower was Loose-flower Bush Pea, Pultenaea laxiflora, many to come also Wedge Peas, Gompholobiums. The Grevillea that grew thickly all among trees was not flowering well and and there were a few buds. Prickly Moses, A Armata was the comonest wattle in the forest, also Woolly Grevillea, Grevillea lanigera, Up on Donkey Hill there were thousands of Chocolate flowers, Dichopogon strictus, mostly in buds. We looked for Flying Duck orchids, Caleana major, but it was too early.

The birds were more interesting to me even than the flowers and some were quite rare for us such as the Black Chinned Honeyeater. A very pretty bird and brighter plumage than the books illustrations. The big handsome Yellow Tufted Honeyeater is the most common in the Chiltern Forest and we have found its nest. It builds in a low shrub, grevillea or heather shrubs and once we were shown a nest in a Finger Flower bush, with 4 pinkish eggs, a rare and charming sight. The bird list is as follows, But I cannot put proper names to them:

Magpie
Magpie Lark(Peewee)
Willie Wagtail
White winged Chough
White plumed Honeyeater
Brown Tree-Creeper
Straw Necked Ibis
Yellow Tufted Honeyeater
Grey Thrush
Dusky Woodswallow
Welcome Swallow
Yellow robin
Grey Fantail
White browed Babbler.
Raven
White Ibis
Crested Pigeion
Noisy Frair-bird
Starlings
Large Hawk
Yellow-tailed Thornbill
Galah
Red Browed Finch
Pied Currawong
Crimson Rosella
Black Faced Cuckoo Shrike
Black Chinned Honeyeater
Red Wattle-bird.

M & A Galbraith
25/09/01

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (7) ISSUE NO 335 NOVEMBER 1991

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 21/10/91

10 Members present. 1 Apology.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (OF interest.)

1. 'Naturalist' production. Prices calculated for current production costs (about $35 per month), and quotes for production by photocopying ($144 from L.V. Printers and $55 from Spectracopy P/L). Both based on 100 copies of 4 pages each plus front and back covers.
 Recommendations:
 1. Because of looming unavailability of Gestetner stencils, that the Club move to have the 'Naturalist' produced commercially, subject to consultation with people involved in production.
 2. That we negotiate with Moe Historical Society to buy our duplicator and excess materials. If approved at General Meeting then ask people involved to next Business Meeting. Propose to change production in January, and seek a 12 month contract with successful tenderer. (check closure of Business in January).

2. Guzzardi building shooting lodge in wetlands near Rosedale J. Blucher made some enquires. Planning permit should be required, and objections may be lodged then. Bon will make enquiries through Rosedale Shire.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. Julie Parker wishes to buy carry bag and globe for projector Ask for a quote.

2. VFNCA Annual Campout program. Note that VFNCA has adopted a 5 year plan for Clubs to host its annual campout, and that we consider hosting it sometime in the future.

3. Anglers Rest campout. List needs filling-only 10 so far.

4. Submission for $500 from DC&E for annual Conservation Grant.

5. Neville Rosengren willing to talk on 'Volcanoes of Western District' in May next year. Consult David Thomas for suitable related excursion.

FINANCE:

Balance:	Cheque Acc	$ 722.25
	Investment Acc.	$2438.93
	Conservation Acc.	$1108.06

CONSERVATION COORDINATORS REPORT:

Submissions: SEC Overview of Water & Wastewater
Draft copy of LCC Melbourne Study Area No. 2

Complete another census for blackberry project for Monash University and DCE Yarram.

Five members took part with Sale FNC and DCE Officers in orchid count at Dawson.

Report of Business Meeting LFVNC inc 27/09/91
Conservation Coordinators Report cont....

Checked out rare Rulingerprostrata in Moley Plains and also orchid at Giffard for Flora Fauna Guarantee Group and DCE Yarram. Working on census of areas at Traralgon South that may hopefully be added to crown land to form Flora & Fauna Reserve.
Reports: Overburden Rehabilitation Group.
Forest Management Area Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting: 18th November 1991 7.30pm, Noah's Ark Toy Library Morwell.

Supper Roster: David and Gwynn Trainor.

CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER FUTURE WATER SUPPLY TO WETLANDS.

Wellington Wetlands Consultative Committee member Charles McCubbin expressed concern at the Committees October meeting regarding future management of water supplies in the Latrobe River. He felt that any major reduction in the volume of water available may have an adverse effect on the whole ecology of the Wellington wetlands area.

In recent years, water has been diverted from the catchment for metropolitan water supply purposes. This concept, together with the fact that each year significant volumes of water from the Latrobe River are used by industry in the Valley help to generate concern. One of the options for meeting Melbourne's future water supply needs may require further tapping of the rivers resources. Major expansion of industry within the catchment may also require a further drain on the rivers capacity.

As part of the Gippsland Water Strategy, a major thrust will be to look into the question of water allocation from Gippsland catchments for future development. The Strategy will provide a basis for future planning. This will allow the Region to grow and develop whilst ensuring that adequate water is retained in the system to allow an ecologically sustainable wetland and lakes system. The EPA is also currently reviewing the State Environment Protection Policy for water quality management of the Latrobe River. This may also have long term implications for future regional development.
Printed from the Gippsland Water Quality News Oct. 1991.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

NATURALIST $10.00 FAMILY $20.00 SINGLE MEMBER $15.00

Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

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Newborough 3825
Phone 051 276501.

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DECEMBER 1991

ISSUE No 336

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LVFNC.

Meeting: Friday 17th January 1992 7.30pm

Topic: Members night. Bring along any interesting material for an informal night.

Excursion: Anglers Rest Campout. 24th Jan. to 27th Jan.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK:

January 1992. Seed Collection -- date to be arranged depending upon seasonal influence. Contact Ken 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK:

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brookes for details. Ph. (056) 231562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE:

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm SECOND Tuesday of each month Contact Dulcie Cambell for details. (051) 270751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP:

Meeting: FOURTH Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Skill Share
Howard st.
Traralgon.

A GROWING GARDEN CONT....

Meanwhile a bank of Eucalyptus rubida planted as tubes in 1968 in our western neighbours garden continued to climb into the sky and throw longer shadows in what had been our sunny garden. The vegetable plot was too shady so was abondoned and the area redeveloped with an above ground pool with extensive decks.

The south eastern corner originally very sunny and good for Chamelaucium uncinatum, Chorizema cordatum, Helichrysum baxteni and "Sturts Desert Pea" was now being over shadowed by the Casuarina torulosa and Acacia verniciflua. The area nearby was developed using clay mixed with blue stone chips planted with epacres, grevillea, anigozanthos, and our Eucalyptus sepulcralis remained the only sunny area so that all sorts of nearby plants seeded into the granitic sand path passing through it. Micromyrtus ciliata, Crowea exalata, Viola betonicifolia, and Pelargonium rodnevanum all appeared. At this stage a new house was built on the western boundary of our house block....to do this the trees providing shade to our front garden were removed, this area now enjoyed full sun, so the garden needed to be replanted with more sun loving plants and all the grassed area was now covered with bush litter to reduce the watering needs of the front garden. Brachyscomes, Zieria, Stackhousia, Epacris and Indigofera now thrive there.

A rampant Hibbertia scandens and a Pandorea pandorana finally pulled over a screen around the hot house and buried a Lambertia formosa and Banksia blechnifolia. So at last we have had to learn to be ruthless and prune plants more severely, and more often from infancy. We redeveloped the rear garden pruning back hard those plants we wished to keep as background, removed the Banksia spinulosa, Hibbertia scandens and the pandora, replacing the screen, unsuccessfully trying to remove Dianella caerulea, widening the garden beds heavily composting and digging in mulching and replanted again with plants known through experience to be hardy.... so much more was known 20 years later and our interest and knowledge was much increased. We understood the environment much more. Besides our needs had changed and our children were adults.

The garden still retains its vistas and side pockets and luckily the screen across the rear entrance has grown as the beautiful rural farm view has been replaced by houses. We still get lots of enjoyment out of the garden, though we rarely go out into it without secateurs handy and continualy prune, its quite private gives pleasant vistas from the house and has colour in different parts at different times....no doubt it will continue to grow and change as will our ideas so it will continue to be a "GROWING GARDEN".

John Armstrong.

..../1

BUNYIP STATE FOREST (NEAR LABERTOUCHE)

EXCURSION ON 23 NOVEMBER 1991

Nancy and Jack Brookes took us first to a powerline clearing where we found a Horned Orchid Orthoceras strictum which had not opened. Also noted were Tiny Sundew Drosera pygmaea, Spiny-headed Matrush Lomandra longifolia, and a tall native grass, Stypa muelleri.

Next was an abandoned sandpit - rather wet but well suited to Fairies Aprons, white and purple Utricularia dichotoma. The small Yellow Onion orchid Microtis atrata was also growing in a wet patch. In a drier spot there was a hard-to-detect Elbow Orchid Spiculaea huntiana and nearby a Copper Beard orchid Calochilus campestris and Blunt leaf Heath Epacris obtusifolia. A tall blue Sun orchid but Thelymitra aristata was suggested after consulting Willis's Plants in Victoria.

Lunchtime was filled with bird calls including a Brush cuckoo but it was interesting to talk to Stephanie Rennick of SGAP and to hear that there is a lot of work being done on restoring indigenous species in areas such as the Outer Circle Railway Reserve and even home gardens are being entirely dedicated to it. After lunch we came across several interesting plants near the start of the Waterfall walk. Gippsland Pink-bells Tetratheca stenocarpa were there in abundance and Rosy Heath-myrtle Baeckea ramosissima was attractive. There were several Pultenaeas including Muellers Bush Pea P. muelleri and another possibly Soft Bush Pea P mollis which is being submitted to the Herbarium for identification. Starhair Astrotricha linearis with small white flowers was also in the area.

On the waterfall walk and on the return along the road conditions were most suited to ferns. Among the many identified were the Forked Fern Tmesipteris parva, Finger Fern Grammitis billardieri, Scrambling Coral Fern Gleichenia microphylla, Screwfern Lindsaea linearis, Common Maidenhair Adiantum aethiopicum and two Fan Ferns Silky Stichcrus flabellatus and Spreading S. lobatus. On the return walk our attention was drawn to a tall rush, or Juncus, about 1.2 metres high with brown flower heads which is also being submitted for identification. There was also Giant Mountain Grass or Wild Oats Festuca dives which was not on the local list of plants. Great interest was shown by Ellen Dunn and Stephanie Rennick in some of our Violas which Stephanie thought may be V. hederacea var. sepaltiana.

The joint excursion with FNC of Victoria was highly successful. It was a pleasant spring day and attendance was very good. There was a strong backbone of people with botanical knowledge and lots of plants to observe and identify - to many to list here in full.

Ron Carey

..../2

BIRD-WATCHING IN OUR GARDEN

For the first time we have Grey Currawongs nesting on our property this year. The baby birds are almost as pleading as baby magpies. We can hear the parent birds stripping the bark off the eucalypts looking for insects. We have also seen them pulling off the loose bark of the pine tree. Two young currawongs were pleading in one of our trees and when we came nearby a parent bird gave about three piping calls and then flew away in an obvious manner to attract our attention. The young birds stayed still where they were; but without making a sound.

We were amused one morning when we were feeding the birds their cheese. One of the young thrushes came down to feed; but its sibling swooped down and chased it away. However the second young thrush apparently hadn't decided to feed itself yet. Once it had chased the first bird away it just called for the parent bird to feet it. When the parent bird flew away without feeding it the youngster just followed. The first young thrush then returned to feed. I wondered if the second youngster had been the dominant one in the nest.

Bird watching is not all pleasure. I was pleased to see the Kookaburras on the clothes line early one morning. That meant they were feeding young and the short grass on the lawn made it easier to get food than the long grass in the paddocks. However when I bought in the washing later in the day and had to return two articles to be washed again because of the bird lime on them I decided it was not all pleasure to have the Kookaburras back again.

It surprises me to watch how the parrots can nip a flower from the Cestrum and other exotic bell flowers. They nip the bells off so that they fall to the ground but the parrots retain that part of the flower at the base of the bell that contains the nectar inside. All this is achieved in one action; they must have a very versatile tongue.

Bon Thompson

SCARLET HONEYEATER

Pat Delahay asked for feedback on Scarlet Honeyeaters. We had a male one on our red bottlebrush for one and a half days in mid-October 1991. We are 4km East of Jindivick and 20km north of Warragul. Ellys theory is that the drought in NSW and Queensland has pushed the birds farther south.

Ron Carey.

..../3

FRIENDS OF THE EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE.

On the 12th of November 1991 Arthur Ewen and Ron Court led a very successful wild-flower walk in the Reserve with sightings of fifteen orchid species and fifteen other wildflowers. Other sightings were a large black butterfly with orange markings and red eyes on its wings and a black spider with symmetrical white spots on its back.

ORCHIDS

Common Bird-orchid.	Chiloglottis gunnii
Tall Sun-orchid.	Thelymitra media
Green-comb Spider-orchid.	Caladenia dilatata.
Copper Beard-orchid.	Calochilus campestris
Mayfly Orchid	Acianthis caudatus
Scented Leek-orchid	Prasophyllum oderatum
Common Spider-orchid	Caladenia patersonii
Purple Beard-orchid	Calochilys robertsonii
Salmon Sun-orchid	Thelymitra rubra
Flying Duck-orchid	Caleana major
Small Tongue-orchid	Cryptostylis leptochila
Red Beaks (leaves)	Lyperanthus nigricans
Hyacinth Orchid(stalks)	Dipodium punctatum
Large Tongue-orchid(leaves)	Cryptostylis subulata
Pink Fingers	Caladenia carnea

OTHER WILD FLOWERS

Common Appleberry	Billardiera scandens
Purple-flag	Patersonia occidentalis
Golden Bush Pea	Pultenaea gunnii
Small-leaved Clematis	Clematis microphylla
Ivy-leaf Violet	Viola hederacea
Tall Sundew	Drosera peltata
Black-anther Flax Lily	Dianella revoluta
Goodenia	Goodenia sp.
Billy-buttons	Craspedia glauca
Pincushion	Brunonia australis
Grass Trigger-plant	Stylidium graminfolium
Bluebell	Wahlenbergia stricta
Candles	Stackhousia sp.
Teatree	Leptospermim juniperinum
Milkmaid	Burchardia umbellata

Dulcie Sambell for "Friends of the Edward Hunter".

BUNYIP STATE FOREST UPDATE

Following the outing to Bunyip State Forest on 23/11/91 a number of specimens were submitted to the Herbarium by Stephanie Rennick and were identified as follows-
Pultenaea muelleri, Conocarpus humilis, Xanthosia tridentata (Hill Xanthosia), Hydrocotyle geraniifolia (Forest Pennywort) Tetrarrhena juncea (Forest Wire grass), and Juncus planifolius (Broadleaf Rush). Also Jack Brooks tells me that Olearia Stellulata on my list should have been O. rugosa(Wrinkled Daisy Bush).

Ron Casey.

..../4

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP 1991

The Christmas break-up for the Club was the usual success. The weather was perfect for the occasion and Nora's gareden was full of colour. There were plenty of shady spots for the tables and chairs. Approximately 40 people were present. We were all plied with the usual Christmas fare.
Andy Ringin gave us the history of Ranch Road, named after the property on the Latrobe River, the property has been farmed for over 100 years. The farm included Wisdom Swamp, well known for fishing, especially eels, and hunting. Then Andy entertained us with his renditions of poetry. Phil Rayment and Mary Austin led the carol singing with their recorders.
All day we had the accompaniment of bird calls. Nora has many species of birds nesting in her garden, including Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, Willie Wagtails, Mudlarks and Honeyeaters. Other birds were also visiting for the day. I did not hear of any member having difficulty in finding Nora's garden. Nora received many thanks as everyone had such an enjoyable and friendly day.

Bon Thompson.

SCARLET HONEYEATERS

Joan vincent from Bairnsdale is compiling a report on the distribution of the Scarlet Honeyeater in Gippsland this year. The club has recorded four sightings - two at Tyers, one at Newborough and one at Jindivick. If any other members have recordings would they please let Joan, June Lubke or myself know.

Bon Thompson.

RE-NATURALIST now being printed by Spectracopy from January issue. Could members where possible when typing articles leave a space for the Field Naturalist heading. As there will be no field trip for January other articles will be most welcome for the January issue, (whats happening in your garden?). Deadline if possible by the end of December. Merry Christmas!!

Anne.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC. ON 18/11/91

12 Members present. 2 Apologies.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: (of interest)

1. "Naturalist" production. P Rayment prepared summary of issues for discussion and presentation at General Meeting.
Additional information is J. Burns wishes to retire from stapling and postage job as soon as possible. Postage will rise in Jan. and postal category may change. Postage is currently $27month for 65 copies (5 hand delivered).
Recommendations: That we apply for a contract for 12 months from Spectracopy at $55 issue. That we continue the magazine in its present format for 12 months and that membership continue to include the Magazine. Will need a volunteer to collect magazine from Spectracopy in Traralgon, fold, stick labels and post.

..../5

REPORT FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE LVFNC INC. ON 18/11/91

Business arising from the minutes: (of interest) cont....

2. Guzzardi's planned shooting lodge in wetlands near Rosedale. J. Wall reported that Bird Observers Club are concerned about likelihood of introduced birds escaping into surrounding areas as has occured in other areas. Club will write to DCE and ask a about: Progress of Planning permit, species to be released and their potential to escape into the wild.

FINANCE:

Balance:	Cheque Acc.	$565.02
	Investment Acc.	$2438.92
	Conservation Acc.	$983.68

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. B. Neilsen very ill in Fairfield Hospital with virus. G. Trainor has agreed to collect mail and attend to correspondence until AGM.

2. Anglers Rest Campout, 3 huts booked for our Club and 22 on list. One hut booked for BFNC confirm details with B. Isaacson. N. O'Reilly will collect money at campout $7-$10 per night and $18 for optional dinner. P Rayment will produce sheet of details for January meeting

3. Business Meeting venue. Hire Toy Library Ctte Rooms for next year. Book for 11 months if available and G. Trainor will provide dates. I Peterson/G Trainor will collect key.

4. G. Thompson suggested that we may incorporate some items of interest from the many periodicals which the Club in our own magazine.

5. VFNCA Annual Campout-if we decide to host it, Centre for Gipps. Studies Monash Gippsland may help. Contact Miss M Fletcher.

CONSERVATION COODINATOR'S REPORT:

Submissions LCC Melbourne Study Area No. 2
Draft submission on Management Plans for Snake Isl. and Little Snake Isl.
Assisted DCE personnel with Rulingia search.
Checked out Gravel Reserve area at Longford for plant census.
Obtained further information on Hunting Lodge project on Rosedale Shire and replied to BOC enquiry about it.
Completed plant census of Traralgon South reserve area and now preparing paper for DCE and SEC.
Recorded plants of Melaleucapar vistaninea in our area of the State and extended its known range into T grid.

Next Meeting 13th January 1992 7.30pm, Toy Library, Morwell.

..../6

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

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LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
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JANUARY 1992

ISSUE No 337

Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LVFNC.

Meeting: Friday 28th February 1992 7.30pm

Topic: Spiders. Arthur Hall.

Excursion: Bus trip to Butterfly House, Melbourne Zoo.

BIRD GROUP.

Excursion: Monday 3rd February.
Meet at Tyers River Bridge Picnic Area at 10am
then onto Senini's Track.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

For information on February's activity ring Ken for details 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the THIRD Sunday in the month. Contact Jack Brookes for details. Ph (056) 231562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE.

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm SECOND Tuesday of each month
Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. (056) 231562

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Skill Share
Howard St.
Traralgon.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST (1) ISSUE NO 337 JANUARY 1992

MACQUARIE ISLAND

Talk given by Mr John Steel November 22nd 1991.

Mr Steel was the Officer-in-charge of an Australian National Antarctic Research expedition to Macquarie Island in 1972. He spoke about the history of the island, this is referred to in the following article.

Macquarie Island is administed by Australia (Tasmania). A question was asked about the slides, and we were told the film used was Kodachrome 64. also some Ectachrome slides had been processed on Macquarie Island. A slide of the ANARE chartered ship the Nella Dan was shown, this was the transport to Macquarie Island. The Nella Dan sank on a later return trip for Australia. There were ruins of the station at the Northern tip of the island which showed the harsh landscape. Members of the expedition lived in comfortable quarters, as several slides showed. There is a good MESS for the staff and it is overseen by a qualified Chef. Opportunities were taken for celebrations, formal dinners for birthdays, and midwinter Christmas was a feature of Island life.

The station personel had duties in the Radio Shack and 24hr weather reports were made. Three hourly weather balloons were put up, and information received was collated at the station.

Macquarie Island has plenty of animal and bird life, the outstations had colonies of Penguins and Seals. There were several slides of Elephant Seals which breed on the Sub-antarctic and antarctic Islands. There were many young seals and we were told that some bonding of seals takes place. The Killer Whale slide was of interest, these creatures hunt the seals. The Leopard Seal was a rare visitor. The Penguins seem to be everyones favourite. There are large colonies of Penguins at Macquarie Island. We saw Rockhopper Penguins, Royal Penguins and the Gentoo Penguins which nests in the Tussock Grass. The second largest Penguin is the King Penguin and we saw many of these majestic birds. The largest Penguin, the Emperor does not live on Macquarie Island.

The Skua Gull is a great scavenger, it will take penguin eggs and young birds, it will attack young seals. The slides showing the albatrosses were of great interest, there were Sooty Albatross, Black-browed albatross and the largest of all, the Wandering albatross which has a wing span of 2.7 to 3.5 metres. These birds nest on a high hillside and the young birds are over 1 year old before taking flight. The albatross mate for life and return to the same nest to breed every 3-5 years.

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Macquarie Island cont....

Introduced animals are a problem for the Island, bats were introduced by the sealers, as were goats, dogs, donkeys and horses. Rabbits were also introduced and along with cats are a pest. The Weka, a New Zealand ground fowl were introduced and compete for survival with the cats.

At the conclusion of Mr Steel's address our President Philip thanked him for a most interesting talk, giving us some insight into one of Australias outposts.

Lorna Long.

SALINITY AND THE WETLANDS

Increased salinity has become a potential threat to the health and well-being of the high value wetlands in the Lake Wellington area.

Changes in land use including the clearing of large areas of native bushland, and the use of irrigation in the catchment have caused significant changes to the catchment's water balance. These changes have resulted in more water entering the groundwater system, increasing ground water pressures and causing the water table to rise.

Millions of years ago, the area was part of the ocean floor. Deposits of salts from this time are lodged in the soil profile, and normally remain inactive. However when the water table rises, this salt is mobilised and brought up to the land surface. Concentration of salts at the surface soil affect plant growth, water quality in local rivers and streams, and ultimately, the wetlands areas themselves.

Another contributing factor to the rise of salinity levels in the Gippsland Lakes and associated wetlands has been the permanent opening of the entrance at Lakes Entrance in 1889. This move has resulted in salt water from the sea mixing with the much fresher lakes water. Also recently deepened channels between Lake Wellington and Lake Coleman allow the free exchange of water between these two water bodies. Entry of salty water into Lake Coleman from Lake Wellington has a distinct bearing on the ecology of the wetland. The other important issue bearing on the state of Lake Coleman, is the flow of treated effluent from Dutson Downs. From mid-1992, this relatively fresh water will cease to flow into the lake, following its diversion to the ocean.

If the salinity of Lake Coleman increases significantly, the decline of the vegetation will reduce the nesting and feeding habitat available to water birds. A study carried out in 1976 estimated that 27 bird species would be severely depleted in the wetland area by further salination. Whatever the long-term options for the management of Lake Coleman may be, the question of how best to mange salinity levels will be high on the agenda.
Extracts of an article printed from Gippsland Water Quality News November 1991.

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MACQUARIE ISLAND

Macquarie island is the last vestige of land to be found in that vast expanse of the great southern ocean south to the south of Australia.

Macquarie island Latitude 52^0 33' South., Longitude 168- 59' is volcanic in origin about 833 nautical miles south-south-east of Hobart, and 735 nautical miles from the Antarctic continent. A dependency of Tasmania since 1925, it is 21 miles long and from 1 miles to 3 miles wide.

It must once have been covered with a thick ice cap, virtually snow free in summer, rain of fog occurrs on 300 days of the year and the unceasung westerly winds reaach speeds of over 100 m.p.h. The average temperature varies from about 2^0C in July to 4^0C in winter

The island rises steeply from the sea to a central plateau about 1,000 feet above sea level, Mt Hamilton, the highest point as 1,421 feet above sea level. At the northern end of the island a narrow isthmus connects the main part of the island with Wireless hill, 336 feet, and North Head. The ANARE station is built on the isthmus. The island is ringed with rocks and reefs and great masses of bull kelp and raging surf make landing from the sea very difficult.

The hills of Macquarie Island were sighted for the first time on 11 July, 1810, from the deck of the Perseverence a sealer from Sydney, Captained by Frederick Hasselburgh. Hasselburgh was later drowned at Campbell Island in November 1811.

In the early years of settlement of the colony of New South Wales, sealing was a very important source of income and seal skins and oil were significant export commodities.

Due to a shortage of Elephant Seals in 1890 penguins were killed for their oil until in 1919 the Tasmanian government called a halt.

Climatically the island is classified as sub-antarctic, that is it lies just north of the Antarctic convergence which corresponds approximately with the northern limit of pack ice in winter. The antarctic convergence, a belt of circumpolar water in which the cold northward flowing antarctic surface water sinks beneath the warmer ssub-antarctic water. The sub-antarctic zone has as its boundary to the north the Subtropic convergence.
The coast-line of the island is never ice-bound mean sea tempeerature varies from 2.8 to 7.2 degrees centigrade.

Throughout the year there is a mean monthly range of only 3.9°C, the highest temperature recorded was 11.5^0C and the lowest -8.3^0C

Calm days are almoost unknown and for well over half the year wind speeds of between 10 and 30 knots are recorded, with gusts of between 80 and 100 knots in storms.

The above information supplied by Mr John Steel.

.../3



Map supplied by Mr John Steel.

..../4

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Barbara Nielson has asked me to convey her heartfelt thanks to members of the Club for the many letters, cards and good wishes which she has received whilst in Fairfield Hospital. It has meant a great deal to her to have news of the Club and to know that so many friends have been thinking of her during her illness.

I would ask all LVFNC members to give careful consideration to a number of positions which must be filled in the near future. First of all, the position of Secretary, Vice-President No 2, Vice-president No. 3 and Publicity Officer fall vacant at the coming AGM in March. In addition, we seek a new Editor to replace Mrs Anne Bailey, who concludes her good work in this capacity with the current issue. Now that the "Naturalist" is being produced by photocopying from a paper master, the Editor could elect either to work with the Club typewriter (IBM "golfball") or to use a computor with suitable wordprocessing software and printer.

Philip Rayment

GARDEN VISITORS OF THE FEATHERED KIND

European Barn Swallows have long been quoted affectionately in poetry and literature, and are known to be long-distance migrants which completely leave Europe to overwinter in Africa. Because of this, there is sometimes confusion about the similar Welcome Swallow of Australia.

Our Welcome Swallows are partial migrants, as a proportion of the southern part of the population moves north each winter to warmer areas where there are likely to be more insects in the air. Not all swallows leave Tasmania, for example, but numbers congregate along the telephone wires or elsewhere and are very visible, while some flocks have been recorded flying north.

Ours is a different species from the one found in Europe, though similar in appearance, and their migration is largely within Australia, with just a few reaching New Guinea.

The swallow's half-cup shaped nest of reinforced mud is a familar sight to many, often built under bridges or verandahs, or high inside garages and outbuildings, If a nest is built over a doorway where droppings are unsightly, a shelf can be attached to the wall underneath the nest. Many people have told me that this is a small price to pay to have a neat little head peer out over the rim of the nest as the bird confidently twitters away at householders. Make sure that such a shelf is not an available perch for cats to spring onto from a vantage point elsewhere.

..../5

Garden Visitors of the Feathered kind cont....

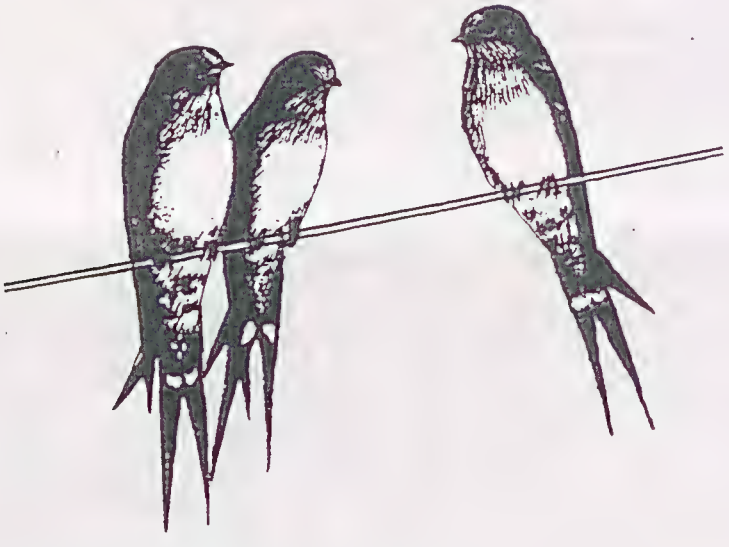
Swallows feed only on insects caught in the air, so aerial spraying and insecticides are tantamount to death warrants for them. They are often seen swooping low across the lawn at a hatch of insects, or when animals or humans disturb the grass and the insects there. At other times when winds or warming air currents carry the insects higher, the birds follow to fly up there too.

We have other aerial feeders here- Fairy and Tree Martins. Both lack the swallow's forked tail. To slightly confuse the issue, there are now occasional records of the European Barn Swallow in Australia. These birds have much longer outer tail streamers, and a black band across the breast under the rufous throat patch. They have been seen mainly in northern Australia but when I see swallows perched anywhere at all I have a long hard look at them.

In fact, our own Welcome Swallow is very attractive in its own right. If you see it perched in sunshine the back is gleaming blue-black and the face and throat are a rich chestnut color.

We don't have the traditional folklore in Australia about the arrival of spring migrants after dark days of a long, bitter winter, but numbers of Welcome Swallows in the sky are a welcome sight for many people.

By Ellen M. McCulloch. Bird Observers Club of Australia.
Printed from the Gardening News Winter Edition June-July, 1991.
Official Journal of The Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.



Original Artwork by Stephen Davidson.

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LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due March 31. Payable to Hon. Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club Inc will be held on Friday, March 27th, 1992 at 730pm in the Moe Education Centre

ELECTIONS: The following offices will be declared vacant

Vice-Pesident No 2	2 year term	Mr J Blucher has held this position for 2 years
Vice-Pesident No 3	2 year term	Mrs L Long has held this position for 2 years
Secretary	2 year term	Miss B Nielsen has held this position for almost 2 years until her resignation in November 1991
Treasurer	1 year term	Miss N O'Reilly took on the first year of the current 2 year term to March 1993
Publicity Officer	2 year term	Mrs P Holywell has held this position for 2 years

Please give considerable thought to the above positions

Nominations to be with the Acting Secretary, Mrs G Trainor, by Wednesday 25th March

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB INC

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE

I wish to nominate _____

of _____

for the position of _____ of this Club

Proposer _____

Seconder _____

I hereby agree to accept nomination for the above office _____

This nomination form is to be in the hands of the Acting Secretary, Mrs G Trainor, by Wednesday 25th March 1992

LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting: Friday 27th March 1992 7.30pm

Topic: Annual General Meeting
Shore Birds. Brett Lane

Excursion: Related excursion, expected to be Anderson's Inlet

Bird Group Excursion: Monday 2nd March
Meet at Tyers Football Oval at 10am
Will go to Rintoull's Creek

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

For information on March's activity ring Ken Harris for details. Ph (051) 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month.
Contact Jack Brookes for details. Ph (056) 231562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (056) 231562

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Skillshare
Howard Street
Traralgon

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BIRDS

Bird Watching in our Garden	B Thompson	336 Dec
Birding in Indonesia - Part 1	F J Blucher	330 June
" " " - Part 2	"	331 July
Black Robin - Film shown March Meeting	P Petschack	329 May
Enjoyment of Native Birds	H Galbraith	" "
King Parrots	A Bailey	330 June
Lord Howe Island (Extract Aust Wilderness Heritage Vol 1)	G Mosley	329 May
Lyrebirds	P Petschack	332 Aug
Magpie Family	J Galbraith	329 May
Pardalote Paradox	E McCulloch	333 Sept
Scarlet Honeyeater	P Delahay	335 Nov
" "	R Carey	336 Dec
" "	B Thompson	" "
Yinberrie Hills - Gouldian Finches & the Mt Todd Gold Project (extract from NT Environment Centre)		329 May

BOTANY

A Growing Garden Talk by J Armstrong 25/10/91		
Part 1	J Armstrong	335 Nov
Part 2	"	336 Dec
The Amateur Botanist	B Thompson	335 Nov
An Illusive Plant - Bidens tripartita	E Lyndon	325 Jan
Edward Hunter Bush Heritage Reserve	D Sambell	336 Dec
Bunyip State Forest Excursion	R Carey	" "
" " " " update	"	" "
The Gymea Lily	L Long	334 Oct
Hakea Seed & Seed Collecting	D Sambell	" "
Heathlands (Plant Ecology) Talk by S Taylor	M Austin	325 Jan
Orchids for Beginners Talk by K Bell 28/6/91	K Bell	334 Oct
Orchids in South Gippsland	P Rayment	333 Sept
Prasophyllum rostratum	B Thompson	325 Jan
Sassafras	"	" "

EXCURSIONS

APM Forest Field Day 8/5/91 Led by R McCarthy	P Wall	331 July
" " " " June 91 Led by B Jenkins	J Wall	" "
Australia Day Weekend Annual Campout 1992 - information	B Nielsen	333 Sept
Avon - Mt Hedrick Reserve Led by J Turner on 13/10/90 and 12/10/91	W Savage	335 Nov
Bunyip State Forest Led by N & J Brooks 23/11/91	R Carey	336 Dec
Update on above excursion	"	" "
Cowwarr - Toongabbie 24/11/91	Combined	325 Jan
Chiltern Forest, Tower Hill and Donkey Hill	M & A Galbraith	335 Nov
Excursion that wasn't	J Lubcke	334 Oct
Friends of the Edward Hunter Bush Heritage Reserve	D Sambell	336 Dec

INDEX, Excursions cont ...

Gippsland Lakes Field Excursion Led by E Berkin and others 23/2/91	J Wall	328 Apr
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October Boat Trip (Biddy's Beach)	L Long	325 Jan
Orchids in South Gippsland Led by K Bell 26/6/91	P Rayment	333 Sept
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" " " " " Part 2	"	330 June
1080 Awareness - Amcor Forests 24/7/91	F J Blucher	334 Oct
A Tour of the Valley Led by D Langmore 25/5/91 Part 1	J Purbrick	331 July
" Part 2	"	332 Aug
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" " " March 1992 information	"	334 Oct
Walk through Edward Hunter Reserve for Elderly Citizens Week	L Long & I Peterson	329 May
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FUNGI

Talk by Bruce Fuhrer 26/4/91	A Ewen	330 Jan

MISCELLANEOUS

ANNUAL REPORTS

Bird Recording Officer	J Lubcke	327 Mar
Central Gippsland Land Protection Regional Advisory Committee	O Thompson	327 Mar
Crinigan Road Reserve	E Lubcke	" "
Edward Hunter Bush Reserve	D Sambell	" "
Forest Management Area Advisory Committee	F J Blucher	" "
Friends of Mt Worth State Park	J Brooks	" "
Landscape Consultative Committee	J Wall	" "
Overburden Rehabilitation Group	F J Blucher	" "
President's Report	J Purbrick	" "
Wirilda Environment Park	O Thompson	" "

INTERIM REPORTS

Forest Management Area Advisory Committee Meeting 15/1/91	F J Blucher	326 Feb
June 1991	"	331 July
16/7/91	"	333 Sept
17/9/91	"	334 Oct
Overburden Rehabilitation Consultative Group Meeting 17/4/91	F J Blucher	329 May
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Land Protection Regional Advisory Committee 18/6/91	O Thompson	331 July

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Concern Expressed over Future Water Supply to Wetlands		" "
ENVIRONMENTAL TALKS, ETC.		
Greenhouse Tree Planting Program by Mark Vitlin	P Petschack	332 Aug
Landscape Management Planning Program by D Langmore	B Roberts	333 Sept
Correction for above		334 Oct
Plans for Gippsland Lakes by L Norman	L Long	328 Apr
Salinity & Managing Groundwater - provided by Rural Water Commission	F Mollia	332 Aug
GENERAL		
Australian Natural History Medallion		326 Feb
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Christmas Breakup 1991	B Thompson	336 Dec
Congratulations to Jane Purbrick		325 Jan
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Friends of Edward Hunter Bush Heritage Reserve	D Sambell	331 July
Gould League of Victoria Natural History Programs		326 Feb
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Projector Equipment	W Savage	" "
OBITUARY		
John Mewett		325 Jan
SPIDERS		
In the Garden	D Sambell	327 May

ENDANGERED GRASSLANDS AND GRASSY WOODLANDS OF VICTORIA

Talk given by Mr. Ian Lunt September 27th 1991

Ian Lunt, currently working on his Ph.D, introduced his topic; endangered grasslands and grassy woodlands of Victoria. He began by showing us graphs and slides of Gippsland and locations in Victoria, pointing out where these remnants are left undisturbed. This represents 0.3% of the areas which were formerly here before settlement. Ian's Ph.D study is on the Red Gum plains extending from Traralgon through to Maffra, Briagalong and Bairnsdale.

Ian commented that more attention has been given recently, particularly in the last 5 to 10 years, to issues of forest conservation such as National Estate Forests, old growth forests and rain forests. This gives the impression that they are the most endangered eco-systems in SE-Australia. In fact lowland eco-systems are most endangered, on flat productive areas where the original native vegetation of grassy woodlands and native grasslands only remain in tight little corners. Alpine regions, despite grazing issues are already protected in a couple of big reserves.

Native grasslands at time of settlement contained few or no trees, with some scattered shrubs or stunted Red Gums. The most conspicuous grasses on these areas were Kangaroo grass (Themeda triandra), Wallaby grass (Danthonia spp), Spear grass (Stipa spp) and Tussock grass (Poa spp). In between these grasses were lots of native herbs, lilies, orchids and small daisies. Australia was originally a garden of wild flower shows. On the Keilor Plains grew white Donkey Orchids, described in the 1800's as looking like snow spreading across the plain.(They are now almost extinct). The endangered plants in the native grasslands are small wild flowers and herbs, as most of the grasses are quite common.

Grassy woodlands had stands of trees with open canopies, scattered big old trees, grasses and small herbs, but hardly any shrubs. These were the characteristic features of grasslands and woodlands in comparison with other eco-systems which contain plants we think of a typically Australian: grevilleas, hakeas, heath species and eucalypts.

In Victoria, grassy woodlands occurred across the Northern Plains as Grey Box woodlands. In the North West there were bulloke/casuarina and White Cypress-pine/bulloke woodlands, with grasses beneath. At Pink Lakes only dead pines stand today, with exotic grasses beneath where the sheep graze. This area originally would have been native grassland. The Western Plains contained Red Gum and Yellow Box woodlands, often with big areas of she-oaks and tall honeysuckles or Banksia Marginatas. Across the Gippsland Plains there were predominantly Forest Red Gums with she-oaks.

Ian showed slides of typical remnant areas in Western Victoria. One, in the Grampians showed a forest eco-system as it could have been 200 years ago, with grassy woodlands including scattered Hedge wattle in the foreground and native grasses and herbs with White Wiry Buttons in full flower. A slide of the Northern Hunter region showed grassland where Ian counted 45 species in one square metre! A Langi Logan slide showed native wild flowers in bloom, including the Bulbine lily, Bulbine bulbosa, Chocolate lily, Dichopogon strictus, Bluebells, Wahlenbergia sp. and a yellow Hypoxis tucked away. In the Kyneton area near the Redesdale River, a patch of the Hairy Anchor plant grows quite well in protected sections amongst the rocks.

Ian showed maps of the original distribution of grasslands and woodlands, which comprised one third of Victoria. The typical environment of these eco-systems was on flat, gently undulating land forms and hardly ever on mountainous areas. Soils were often heavy and fertile, or clays and loams, but never deep or sandy. Due to agricultural production these areas have been decimated. Rain forests are considered to be severely decimated, with only 25% left, yet there is only 0.3% of grasslands and 0.3% of grassy woodlands remaining. This exteme loss has severely affected the survival of small mammals and birds, and the larger species which needed large areas to live in have become extinct.

The situation in other countries is the same. Wherever Europeans colonised, loss of grassland occurred leaving small patches along railway lines, in cemetries and scattered along roadsides. Railway lines in Australia were fenced off preventing stock grazing when they were put down in the 1850's to 1880's, so for 150 years plants sensitive to grazing have been protected. The same applies to cemeteries, which were grazed only occasionally. Whilst there is not too much roadside grassland in Gippsland, some good roadside areas remain in Western Victoria, particularly on the Hamilton area. Grassy woodlands have been protected a little better, though only by accident. Dry infertile areas became fenced off when land was divided for agriculture, becoming reserves on Crown Land.

The Western basalt plains grasslands originally measured 21 000 square kms. Now the largest area remaining is 130 hectares, mainly in suburban Melbourne. Endangered animals from this area include the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (now confined to the Hamilton area), the Plains Wanderer and the Striped Legless Lizard. The Earless Lizard lost its habitat when rocks on the plains were removed for fencing. The grasslands and woodlands of Victoria contain as many endangered species of reptiles and birds as all other habitats put together. They contained 60% of

the plants that are now extinct, and contain one in three of the endangered plants of Victoria. To retain remnants along railway lines, fences need to be maintained and community groups encouraged to re seed and replant inside the fence lines.

Gippsland grasslands originally consisted of 600 square kms, but there is virtually none left, with only small pockets to be found. Grassy woodlands comprised roughly 1400 square kms and are now only 670 hectares in total, which is only 0.3% of the original. These remnants are found on larger areas of public land and are:

- 950 ha at Moormurng near Bairnsdale with 400 ha of Red Gum woodland and the rest is the heathy country of the dunes
- 120 ha of quite good Red Gum woodland at Briagalong
- 1600 ha at Providence Ponds with 30 ha of this being Red Gum woodland
- 60 ha at Knob Reserve at Stratford, with 50 ha Red Gum woodland and the rest grassland. This is one of the few representative sites of original vegetation.
- 65 ha in the Stratford Highway Park .

There are six plant species which are threatened throughout Australia which were once recorded in the Gippsland region. Rulingia, a small shrub, occurs in wetlands and Prasophyllum chasmogamum, an orchid, has been recorded. The Button Wrinkle Wort, Rutidosis leptorhynchoides was at Newry, a small native pea of the Glycine genus was recorded on the plains between the Latrobe and Avon rivers and the Austral Toadflax, Thesium australe, was found in the small plain beside Lake King. The Purple Diuris, Diuris punctata, has been found in several sites. Ian discovered the Yellow Banded Love grass, rare in Victoria and not originally recorded here, in several sites in Gippsland, and a small patch of Polygala japonica which grows in the Alps and was not previously recorded here has been found.

Ian's project is to survey most of the remaining remnants, list species and note the sites of endangered species, and if it's obvious these sites will disappear, to collect the seeds, grow them and put them on good sites. Natural processes are no longer sufficient to ensure the survival of these scarce plants, so human intervention is neccesary.

Ian showed many slides of remnant woodlands and grasslands in Gippsland. Slides of Red Gum Reserves at Briagalong and The Knob gave a good idea of typical early scenes. There were large trees with big arched branches, lots of grasses and few shrubs or young Eucalypts. The tallest grasses, like Kangaroo grass, were described by early explorers as being as high as their stirrups - Aboriginal burning probably preserved the openess. The Moormurng sand dunes near Bairnsdale showed Stringybark forest and heathy country, adjacent to which grew Spear Grass, Saw Sedge, Laganias and Kangaroo grass. A slide taken near a railway line showed Purple Diuris, Bulbine Lily, Milkmaids, Burchardia umbellata and Chocolate lily, Dichopogon strictus growing in the spring, creating a massed display. The Yam Daisy, Microseris scapigera was observed by Major Mitchell to be readily eaten by sheep, including the root, which contributed to its decline. Such areas were burned frequently by the Railway authorities preventing the Kangaroo Grass becoming too matted, and the regrowth of trees. Where the Railways have stopped burning, tree regrowth is obvious and thickets of trees now crowd out the wild flowers.

Following Ian's overview of the remnant grasslands and woodlands of Victoria and the Gippsland Plains was a general discussion on their needs, and ways of preserving them such as burning, grazing, how often and when to do it. Almost nothing is left as it was 200 years ago, so it is essential that these remnants be preserved.

Elsie Coggan

Notice: The contact secretary of the Warragul FNC, Mr. F. Handley passed away several weeks ago. Mr. J. Brooks is now the contact secretary. As our back covers are only changed after each Annual General Meeting, the previous contact name will remain.

GIPSY POINT LODGE 1992 PROGRAM

The brochure for the 1992 Bird Observers Program is available from the Club. There are five week long organized Bird Weeks with leaders of considerable expertise, six separate weeks set aside as Bird Observers' Weeks and a series of Pelagic Bird Trips available. Bird Observers are welcome at the Club at any time. Contact Alan Robertson, Gipsy Point. Ph (051) 588205

GIPPSLAND ACCOMODATION AND REHABILITATION SUPPORT SERVICE

GARSS is a community-based organisation offering rehabiliatation programmes for the psychiatrically disabled, and they are building up an equipment pool for adventure activities, which is available for hire. Lightweight, high quality camping gear is available which is suitable for bushwalking. Ph (051) 339237

Report of the Business Meeting of the LVFNC Inc. on 13th Jan 1991

6 members present and 4 apologies.

Finance: Balance:

Cheque account	$457.62
Conservation account	$913.68
Investment account	$2511.13

General Business:

1. Bus trip to Zoo to see Butterfly house etc. Guided tour 11.30am - 1pm, then lunch and free time until bus leaves at 4pm. Cost for bus $15 adult and $10 child, and Zoo entry of $9 or $4.50 concession. Bus Departure times:

Traralgon Hospital	8am
Morwell, opp PO	8.15am
Moe Railway Station	8.30am

2. Naturalist production. Printing with Spectracopy this month was most satisfactory. Letters of thanks to be sent to Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Bailey and Mr. Ringin for their efforts in producing the Naturalist over the years. A new editor is needed at AGM.
3. Annual reports due in Naturalist next month.
4. Annual General Meeting. Positions vacant:

Vice President No 2	2 year term
Vice President No 3	2 year term
Secretary	2 year term
Treasurer	1 year term
Publicity Officer	2 year term

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Six members helped Jodie Hoey to count fertilised orchid flowers at Dawson and Rosedale.

Forwarded paper on plant census of Traralgon South Proposed Flora Reserve to DCE Traralgon, and SECV Morwell.

Forwarded Management Plan for Tyer/Moondarra Parks and Final Recommendations by LCC for Wilderness Area.

Received copy of Management Plans for Preservation of Rulingia prostrata from DCE Traralgon.

Several members attended a seminar re Lake Coleman.

Wellington Wetlands Committee will hold a workshop from 10am to 4pm on 13/2/92 when a decision will be made whether Lake Coleman should be saltwater or fresh water. Committee suggested try for fresh water.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

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WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

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Hon. Editor
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MARCH 1992

ISSUE No 339



Latrobe Valley Naturalist

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting: Friday 27th March 1992 7.30pm

Topic: Annual General Meeting
'Whither the Waders?' Brenda Murlis (Migratory Patterns of Waders)

Excursion: Point Snide and Bald Hills Nature Reserve
Meet 10 am Tarwin Lower Car Park near Hotel beside river

Bird Group Excursion: Monday 6th April. Meet at Thorpdale turn-off on Driffield - Mt. Hut Road at 10am then on to Narracan Falls

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

April 19th: Easter Sunday. Ken Harris will lead an informative walk through the Billys Creek section. Meet at the end roundabout on Braniffs Rd at 1.30 pm. Enquiries Ph (051) 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month.
Contact Jack Brookes for details. Ph (056) 231562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm on the second Tuesday of each month.
Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 276751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Staffroom, Churchill Campus
Kurnai College
Switchback Road, Churchill

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1991 - 1992

This report summarizes a year in which the Club enjoyed a varied and stimulating range of activities, and continued to make important contributions to the preservation of the natural environment of our region.

Two of the general meetings in the year March 1991 - February 1992 focussed on birds. At the 1991 Annual General Meeting, the video 'The Black Robin' brilliantly documented the heroic efforts to save that bird in its remote Chatham Islands home. Later in the year, John Steel's illustrated talk on Macquarie Island extended beyond its bird colonies to touch on geology, astronomy and damage from introduced animals and give an interesting picture of life at base for the expeditioners (including formal dinner parties!). The study of plants was well represented by three speakers, namely Ken Bell on 'Orchids for Beginners', Ian Lunt on 'Remnant Grasslands and Woodlands', relating to his Ph.D research project and John Armstrong on 'A Growing Garden of Australian Plants'. In an excellent talk on 'Freshwater Crayfish', Jody Hoey explained that these relatively long-living invertebrates are very sensitive to environmental change. Bruce Fuhrer's infectious enthusiasm and superb photography were much appreciated in his talk relating to his study of rainforest fungi of Tasmania and Victoria in recent years. Two speakers dealt with landscape management. David Langmore overviewed opportunities for enhancement of the landscape of the central Latrobe Valley; it was pleasing to note the cooperation between the Latrobe Regional Commission, local government authorities and VicRoads. Kath Gosden explained the objectives of the Landcare program, highlighting the twin benefits of improved production for farmers and rehabilitation of the landscape. The year concluded with an outstanding talk on spiders by Arthur Hall, who surveyed their diverse forms and behaviours and indicated that many difficult questions remain to be answered.

The average attendance at general meetings was 39 members and friends, ranging from a low of 28 up to a high of 48. In case anyone thinks that the topic of spiders may deter some, Arthur Hall's talk attracted the largest audience of the year!

Our Saturday excursions were in the main well attended, but with some fall-off in June, July and August when some wild, wet and windy weather struck! Bruce Fuhrer, David Langmore, Ken Bell, Kath Gosden and Ian Lunt led excursions related to their talks. In addition, Peter Lawrence led a rewarding day for 'birdos' at Sale Common, at the same time explaining the problems associated with management of the water levels in the wetlands. Ken Harris guided our welcome return visit to Holey Plains State Park in October, and November saw a rewarding joint excursion with the FNCV Botany Group to the Bunyip State Forest, near Labertouche, led by Nancy and Jack Brookes. A special joint excursion with the Bairnsdale FNC in October allowed us to continue the previous year's exploration of the Avon-Mt. Hedrick Wilderness. Finally, the February 1992 bus trip to the Melbourne Zoological Gardens was an eye-opener for less frequent visitors, and features such as the Butterfly House, Gorilla Rainforest and Great Aviary were very rewarding.

Our thanks go to Nora O'Reilly who hosted our 1991 Christmas Party in particularly pleasant surroundings, and to those others, including Iris Peterson, who so ably helped make it a happy day.

It would be impossible to overstate our indebtedness to Conservation Coordinators Bon Thompson and Jim Blucher (plus I might add, Ollie Thompson) for their tireless work in responding to management proposals from government and semi-government authorities and to requests for expert assistance. My grateful thanks go to Barbara Nielsen for her splendid work as Secretary, and to Wendy Savage, our Assistant Secretary, and Gwyn Trainor who willingly took on extra secretarial responsibilities when Barbara was forced by serious illness to resign late in 1991. Our three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Publicity Officer receive our thanks for their good work too.

The year has seen an important change in the production system for the 'Naturalist' which is already yielding gains in print quality and layout. We thank both Anne Bailey as Editor up until January 1992 and, again, Wendy Savage for filling this position on a temporary basis until this year's AGM. Thanks also go to the whole team involved in the production and distribution of our magazine. The new Committee will need to continue the examination of possible future strategies for the 'Naturalist' beyond 1992.

Our several representatives on bodies concerned with the management of the landscape and environment of the region deserve our thanks, including Jim Wall who has recently resigned as our representative on the Landscape Consultative Committee.

My first year as President has not always flowed smoothly, but it has been made rewarding by the good contributions of so many members, always willingly and efficiently given. As a Club, we can he proud of our record of achievement, yet also be on the alert for new opportunities, to 'Protect and Enjoy'.

Philip Rayment

LAND PROTECTION REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

During the past twelve months I have been able to attend all the meetings of LPRAC. Two meetings were held at places other than Traralgon. One at Cowwarr followed inspection of erosion prevention work on Glenmaggie Creek and other erosion problems on that area.

The second inspection meeting was held at Warragul where the whole morning was taken up looking into two problems - a native vegetation clearing application which had raised some objections from neighbours; and ragwort infestation in conjunction with the establishment of a pine plantation. These inspections restrict the amount of subjects dealt with during the meetings which have to close by 4pm to allow various members to return home to Stratford, Dargo, Strzelecki, etc.

Some items of interest arising during the year were :-

1. Biological control of St. Johns Wort by a special mite was initiated at Wonnangatta.
2. APM Forests to discontinue the use of 1080 poison in protection of young trees from browsing animals.
3. National 'Decade of Landcare' launched by Mrs. Kirner. Victoria is to have 9 Landcare regions - all Gippsland to be one region.
4. Ragwort Control Groups have been successful in areas where established.
5. Commnittee members three year term has been extended by 12 months to end of June 1993.
6. DCE operations being hampered by budget cuts.

Ollie Thompson

CRINIGAN ROAD RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT

As the ten year lease on the Crinigan Road Reserve has expired, everything is more or less in limbo. The City of Morwell is still maintaining the Reserve while the SEC and DCE decide how they will best manage the area in the future. As we have not had a meeting this year, I will have to wait to find out what their decision might be.

Eric Lubcke

EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE ANNUAL REPORT

The Reserve consists of approximately 57 ha of natural bushland. It is located in Moe at the top end of Fowler Street bordered by Princes Freeway, Coalville and Boorman's Roads, Wirraway, Staff and Dwyer Streets. It has a good quality walking track running along either side of the creek, and coral fern. There are other tracks throughout the area.

Moe City Council's allocation for the year was $12,200 and the following has been achieved:

Slashing - carried out to reduce the height of grasses.

Fire prevention - the committee met in the Reserve with Fire authorities, who expressed satisfaction with fire prevention measures.

Fencing - Capstaff Rovers have received further funding to extend fencing along the coral fern walk.

Creek Bed - to be cleaned out by hand again to minimise damage to plants.

'Save the Bush Fund' - the President, Peter Flahavin, made a submission to the Scheme.

Friends of the Edward Hunter - Maintenance work was carried out during the year, with two special afternoons being a Seed-gathering Walk led by Eric Lubcke with June making up a list of birds seen, and a Spring Wildflower Walk led by Arthur Ewen and Ron Court.

Dulcie Sambell

WIRILDA ENVIRONMENT PARK ANNUAL REPORT

There has been good progress at Wirilda during the past year in spite of the disadvantage with the major loss of finance due to Pyramid collapse.

Public use of the picnic ground and facilities has increased with as many as forty cars counted on the one day. We are fortunate to have the services of Mr. & Mrs. Drowley as part-time rangers who maintain the grounds and facilities in very good order.

Electric barbecues are now operating and proving popular. Planted trees and shrubs are growing well. some 15 hectares of blackberry infested land on the north side of the gully bave been scraped and ripped ready for tree planting this year.

All five houses are rented and regular maintenance is carried out on these buildings. The walking track is a maintenance problem, but some work has been done near the picnic area. Also it is hoped to put identification numbers on some of the tree species along the first 100 metres or so of the track.

Ollie Thompson

LVFNC CAR STICKERS ANNUAL REPORT

Opening balance 1-3-1990	$26.82
Car stickers sold to members 4 @ $1.50	$6.00
Interest to 1-6-1991	$1.92
Balance in bank 8-2-1992	$34.74

Val Plant

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK ANNUAL REPORT

The first 17 years of the Group's activities were devoted to getting the Park established. This depended on convincing the Authorities that it was politically advisable to support it by applying money available from the public purse. Obviously, the course to take was by way of demonstrating public opinion and support, and that was only possible by sizeable numbers of knowledgeable and interested people knowing what was in the area that made it outstandingly important for the purpose we knew it suited.

The very nature of the country involved making it possible for as many people as practical to get to the greatest variety of its many attractive features that in the main were accessed only by way of tracks that had to contend with high ridges, deep gullies and through dense vegetation.

The enthusiasm of those who 'discover' this almost secret place is very encouraging to the loyal participants in our Practical Enjoyment Days, and it is clearly inevitable that this beautiful example of Nature's workings will become well known and used in the near future in spite of the community's obsession with squandering money and effort on city and urban non-essentials.

But having achieved a network of over 25 kilometres of tracks, it was realised that there is a significant proportion of the population who have a right to enjoy and profit from their share of the public ownership of the Park - people handicapped by disabilities such as heart and lung problems, walking difficulties etcetera, as well as those many confined to wheelchairs - who are to a greater or less extent unable to contend with the gradients most people find acceptable.

Knowing from our earliest explorations of the Park that the Moonlight Creek Valley had its full share of the typical natural environment and as the creek flow indicated, a reasonably even gradient was available, it was decided to make a track up the Valley.

Such a track also met another Park need - an access route for emergencies as may arise when quite fit people temporarily join the handicapped by being overcome by over-exertion in an unexpected change in the weather.

This 3.8 km project, including one kilometre of extra carefully designed and built pathway for wheelchair usage, proved to be a formidable one that has taken four years to complete - four solid years of persistent effort rewarded at last by the satisfaction of achievement. At last our Group has been free for the past six months to attend to re-opening some 7 kms of vitally important tracks made unusable by many fallen trees and regrowth and the incapacity of Park Management to service them, sometimes to the point of complete obliteration by the same factors.

Access throughout the Park is now almost fully restored, complete with new small track-markers along the way to help walkers to be sure of their position relative to the unofficial map put out by our Friends of Mount Worth State Park.

Jack Brooks, Co-ordinator.

BIRD RECORDING OFFICERS REPORT

In addition to the four seasonal Australian Bird Count visits to Wirilda Environment Park, excursions of the Bird Observing Group during the past twelve months have been to Witt's Gully, Morwell National Park, Blue Rock Dam, Cowwarr Weir and Senini's Track.

A good list of birds was also recorded on the Club excursions to Sale Common and Labertouche.

The only rare sighting reported by Club members during the year was that of the Scarlet Honeyeater. The normal range of this species is from Cape York Peninsula, Qld down the coast to (roughly) Mallacoota, Vic. Scarlet (therefore male) birds were seen in the gardens of three different members of our Club - at Tyers, Newborough and Jindivick respectively - during the month of October.

June Lubcke

There is no Annual Report for the Forest Management Area Advisory Committee or the Overburden Consultative Group as both have been reported regularly throughout the year. The following are the February reports by Jim Blucher.

FOREST MANAGEMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The principal business was 'Roading and Access' (to the forest). Forest roads are classified on a usage rate:

Class 3 - lowest grade or permanent road carries up to 8 loads per day. A load is a modern 6 axle vehicle fully laden.
Class 2 - between 16 and 24 loads per day.
Class 1 - higher duty again.

In the Central Gippsland region there are nearly 700 km of permanent roads in the forest, of which 365 km are not up to standard.

Lack of funding is a big worry. In 1988 it was estimated that $100 million needed to be spent on the Central Highlands over 20 years; but only about $2 million is available each year. Royalty on the timber harvested provides 21% of funds.

On an average, 9 km of permanent roads are needed to harvest 1,000 ha of forest. The roads have to be built, surfaced, drained and maintained correctly, as run-off very soon causes water catchment pollution problems. Even with good management some 'ash' roads generate up to 30 tonnes sediment in streams, per km of road per annum.

The weekend 4WD owners are now each paying $40 pa towards mountain road maintenance: this is because of damage caused by a very small number who break all the rules and do very serious damage to some roads, even though the roads are often 'closed'.

A further problem appearing now is that resulting from the survey of coupes for leadbeater's possum nest sites; 42% of 600 coupes recently surveyed had nest trees (habitat class A) and thus causing a serious re-allocation of coupes to take place, with the possibility of causing many low class roads to be used for higher class duty!

OVERBURDEN CONSULTATIVE GROUP REPORT

Practices Manual: review approx 50% complete, draft available in 6 weeks, finalised by mid-year.

YNX: Landscaping plan progressing well and pines to be removed. Water quality report available next week. Progressive rehabilitation should improve quality of run-off such that in 5 years time licence may be surrendered: this will save annual fee of $206,000. In order to achieve this, a lot more ground cover is needed, so that the range of Ph of run-off of 4 to 8.5 is reduced to 6 to 8.5. In autumn 'direct seeding' of trees on chosen areas to be carried out.

MOC: Western lanscape embankment submitted to EPA for approval and more intense overall control of run-off being implemented.

Loy Yang: More topsoil has been spread along areas south and west of open cut, and grass seed sown. In the NW corner, the drainage bas been improved and licenced. Repairs are being made to areas where a good strike of grass was not achieved previously. Sensitive area around old gravel pit is being fenced and drain on site viewing-mound was repaired. The use of significant quantities of artesian water in the power station is improving the quality of water released from the site. The present flow of 100 l/sec will be progressivily increased over the next several months to 400 l/sec. Major repairs are being made to the settling pond near traffic lights on Traralgon Sth Rd.

Policy Review: Copies of Qld review were circulated for comment with aim of modifying our document to improve its appeal/readability.

LATROBE LANDSCAPE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

1990/91 Latrobe Landscape Improvement Program - Set of proposals include: Morwell By-pass Stage 2, Morwell - Churchill corridor planting, Morwell - Traralgon corridor maintenance work, Morwell Industrial site, Hernes Oak, Port Welshpool and Old Gippstown area. Landscaping work is to be undertaken at the Moe Railway Station and there are many projects on roads and parks around Morwell, Sale, Traralgon and Churchill. Arbor Week, held in May will involve schools planting trees on Highway.

Discussion paper from SECV Greenhouse Tree Planting Programme: Pines are being used for planting by LCC on SEC land and to be managed for production of saw logs. Existing vegetation is to be retained.

Public Consultation: Final selection of sites to be determined through extensive public consultation which should include regional agencies, municipalities, MP's, community groups, lessees, farmers and local landowners.

Jim Wall

ANNUAL JANUARY CAMPOUT 1992 at ANGLER'S REST

The venue for the 1992 'Campout' - the Blue Duck at Angler's Rest came as a pleasant surprise. The accomodation was basic but comfortable and the setting idyllic.

Twenty two members of the LVFNC and seventeen from the Bairnsdale Club met up on the Friday evening. For some, it was a pleasant re-union, for others a happy introduction to new friends and our leader for the weekend - James Turner and his son Sean.

Next morning we all assembled promptly at the appointed hour for the day's excursion. In convoy we set off along the Omeo highway in the direction of Mitta Mitta accompanied by the sound of bell birds.

Our first stop was at the confluence of the Mitta Mitta and Banbara rivers. Here James pointed out the Grevillea willisii which was first discovered in that location. Other species we saw included Grevillea victoriae, Grevillea huegelii and Grevillea alpina. Some time was spent looking at several other species of Helichrysum and Pimelea. Bird life was sparse. Just a few - superb wrens, magpies and one very vocal yellow faced honeyeater.

Eventually we moved off and soon turned off the Omeo Highway onto the 'summer only' road to Falls Creek. There was one brief stop at the site of some fine specimens of the Trigger Plant. Also here we heard an unusual bird call which was identified by a Bairnsdale member as the Cicada Bird. The next destination was Buckety Plain, but James first took us to an area where the vanilla lily grew profusely as well as leek orchids and the biggest greenhoods some of us had ever seen. There was also a swampy patch here which also produced a variety of different flora. So much time was spent in this interesting location that it was decided to make it our lunch spot.

Dorothy Farrow

The state of post-luncheon lassitude affecting your scribe and numerous others was counteracted by the natural activity induced by Marsh flies and Black ants!

The location can most accurately be described as on the other side of the road from the morning's activities (as reported by another inspired participant) - on the way up to the Bogong High Plains from the Omeo Highway. We saw more of the same, plus quite a bit extra. Notable (or else duly recorded) were:-

Egg & Bacon or Alpine Oxylobium - Oxylobium alpestre
Gunn's Alpine or Mountain Buttercup - Ranunculus gunnianus
Coral Heath - Epacris microphylla

Mountain Pepper or Alpine Pepper - Tasmannia (previously Drimus) lanceolata or xerophila (according to whomever you chose to believe - but it WAS hot!)
"Handsome Fungus" - tent shaped, grey and shiny but otherwise unidentified. Also another ordinary flat brown one later.
Alpine Greenhoods - Pterostylis alpina in quite some profusion
Eucalyptus saline-lickii - a felled gum tree with a slot cut in the top to hold salt for a cattle lick
Slender Veronica or Speedwell - Veronica gracilis
Bidgee-widgee - Acaena anserinifolia; notable for its enthusiastic bonding with socks
Golden Weatherglass - Hypoxis hygrometrica; impressive bright yellow stars
Alpine Leek Orchids - Prasophyllum alpinum; I'll bet a fair few of these found themselves ruthlessly trodden underfoot!
Orange Everlasting - Helichrysum acuminatum; so splendid that you're glad they are everlasting - well, almost.

Then we all (nearly) slopped into some swampy ground in a gully and found a very different enviromnent and ecology. The prize HAD to go to the Fairy's Aprons - Utricularia dichotoma with their bright mauve flowers. (How COULD anyone call these bladderworts!) Also notable were:-

Alpine Bottlebrush - Callistemon seiberi; yellow brushes all over the place!
Mountain Milkwort - Comesperma retusum
Dragonflies - covering a lot more ground (or swamp) than their observers
Willow-herb - Identiti forgoteum; failed to establish which one!

At this point I must have been getting tired, because my notes tell me that the Sphagnum Moss and the Baeckea gunniana are the same thing. Even I know that's wrong. Maybe it was the excitement of getting back to dry land! There we were able to study, in relative comfort:-

Australian Carraway - Oreomyrrhis eriopoda (which my notes recorded as eryomycin something. Ho Hum!)
Greenhooded Grasshoppers in a beautiful scintillating green!
Mountain Beard-heath - Leucopogon hookeri which was notable for its bright pink berries!

About then we got up from our knees, sat on our posteriors and drove up the road to the track to McNamara's Hut. A number of us chose the more active alternative and headed on foot for the Hut, passing through a striking display of whitish-mauve spikes of Derwent Speedwell Parahebe derwentiana.

In a natural clearing, a real snow plain, we found McNamara's Hut, guarded, not very effectively, by Flame Robins - Petroica phoenicea - which had nested right alongside the door. Mother (without any flame) kept anxious watch nearby while her showy husband skulked a long way down the track.

The Hut was exceptionally clean and a real credit to its users and visitors - of whom there were droves. With 3 rooms and a wood-shed it was quite commodious and must prove a real haven in rough weather.

Hastening back down the track we noticed Hereford Cattle - sorry, I don't know the scientific name - demonstrating how to work a salt lick, Broom plants (Foreigners!!) abounding, a rippling brook (which only the most prosaic could call a creek) providing a refreshing draught. Eggs and Bacon massed on either side, Leafy Bossiaea Bossiaea foliosa, and Scenery, Real Scenery, with Blue Skies and Blue Hills! Positively uplifting!

Also very uplifting was our next point of call - Buckety Plains. Here we stopped for a well-timed (4 pm) cuppa and life-preserving nibble while admiring the snow plain girded by lovely Snow Gums, with stockyards providing a contrast in the distance. A lovely finish to a wonderful day.

David E & OE Trainor

SCARLET HONEY EATERS FURTHER SOUTH

On 26 October 1991 Scarlet Honeyeaters were noticed in the garden of an Inverloch home. This garden in the western part of the town has a good mixture of tall eucalypts, wattles and varied shrubs. On one occasion three males were seen at the one time as well as females. Another time one male flew into a garden shed and could not find its way out. It was then that a local Birdo was called in for positive identification. These birds were seen over a period of four and a half weeks before they disappeared.

E.P. Brewster

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING of the LVFNC Inc. on 24th Feb 1992

9 members present and 2 apologies.

Finance

Balance	Cheque Account	$722.62
	Investment Account	$2511.13
	Conservation Account	$535.01

General Business:

1. Annual General Meeting. Positions vacant: Vice President No 2, Vice President No 3, Secretary & Publicity Officer: 2 year terms. Treasurer: 1 year term.

2. January Campout 1993. Bairnsdale have investigated a camp at Combienbar, near Club Terrace and Erinundra Plateau. Accomodation for about 95 people in 3 bedroom houses. Members showed strong interest at February GM.

3. Landscape Consultative Committee. J. Wall, Club Representative has resigned. B. & O. Thompson attend as Community Reps, so this should suffice, unless any members wish to take it on.

4. City of Morwell Centenary. Club asked to nominate an activity or event to dedicate to the Centenary this year. Decided that the annual activity at Morwell Park PS would be appropriate, with two trees to be planted as a dedication in addition to the normal talks and walks.

5. VFNCA Annual Campout. Request that our Club nominate a year in the 5 year plan of Clubs willing to host the Annual Campout. Will investigate details and accommodation in the next 12 months, but not willing to host the event before 1994.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Forwarded comments on current proposals for declaration of controlled specimens for harvesting and sale of three native plants in Queensland.

Replied to Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service re proposed Kangaroo Management Programs.

Preparing responses to

1. Baw Baw National Park Porposed Management Plan
2. Wilderness in australia - Options and Issues.

Spent day with Peter Butcher, Environmental Management Unit Morwell, discussing plant species for planting on SECV projects and identifying sites where seeds may be collected.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	HON. SECRETARY:	MEETING:
LATROBE VALLEY F.N.C. Inc.	Miss. B. Nielsen LVFNC Inc. P O Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 747843 ASSISTANT SEC. Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on fourth Friday each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe.
SALE F.N.C.	Mr.D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8.00 pm on first Friday each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale.
WARRAGUL F.N.C.	Mr F. Hanley 9 Princes Hwy Warragul 3820 056 232747	Monthly excursion Contact Secretary
BAIRNSDALE F.N.C.	Mrs Beth Isakson 10 Cumming st Paynesville	8.00pm on third Friday each month Library Community Room. Bairnsdale.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

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Subscription to Club includes "Naturalist".

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting: Friday 24th April 1992 7.30pm

Topic: Marine Life of Corner Inlet - Joan Collins

Excursion: Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park
Meet 10 am Tarwin Lower Car Park near Hotel beside river

Bird Group Excursion: Monday 4th May. Meet at the corner of Clark's Road and Tyers-Yallourn Nth Road at 10 am for A.B.C. at Wirilda.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

May 17th. Tree Planting - 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the and of Braniffs Road. Enquiries Ph (051) 223137

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month.
Contact Jack Brookes for details. Ph (056) 231562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Rd carpark 1pm on the second Tuesday of each month.
Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 276751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm
Staffroom, Churchill Campus
Kurnai College
Switchback Road, Churchill

ANNUAL CAMPOUT 1992 at ANGLERS REST - PART II

In order to better understand the second days excursion, Dr Linden Gilbank, the previous evening, gave us a talk about the history and effects of grazing on the Bogong High Plains. The following is taken from her notes and also 'The Alps at the Crossroads', Dick Johnson, Victorian National Parks Association 1979, Griffin Press, Adelaide.

Following the disastrous 1939 bush fires which razed the Victorian Alps, the Government of the day established the Soil Conservation Board (1940). One of the first issues to be studied was the condition of the mountains of North East Victoria.

For over 110 years the Bogong High Plains had been grazed for the tender fodder they contained. Even sheep in their thousands were driven up there in drought periods. The animals ate the tender herbs and when they were exhausted the cattlemen burned the inedible tussocks and shrubs to obtain the tender shoots for their stock. In no time the sheep, especially, ate the mountains bare. The overgrazing, tramping and burning broke down the continuous sward of ground-hugging vegetation and exposed the soil to the frost and furies of alpine weather. Erosion occurred between the tough tussocks and shrubs. It is said that by 1940 the exposed areas of the Bogong High Plains were reduced to open gravel beds. The SEC became concerned for their proposed Hydro-electric Scheme. Also, because the Bogong High Plains are part of the Murray River System, the problem was one of national significance. Overgrazing was considered to be the main cause of erosion, and it was essential that cattlemen be won over.

In 1941 Miss Maisie Fawcett, M.Sc. was seconded from the Botany Deptartment of Melbourne University to the Soil Conservation Board. She was stationed at Omeo and was to undertake soil erosion studies. In order to gain an intimate knowledge of the history and current practices of the alpine grazing industry, she used to accompany the cattlemen and their cattle over the Alps. She set up a 25 acre enclosure in Rocky Valley to exclude cattle and a 12 acre plot on a steep eroded slope which had been badly affected by rabbits. The plots enclosed a wide range of vegetation types including sphagnum bog, snow grass, tussocks, heath and fire-scarred scrub. For each of these test areas there were unfenced controls. These plots were also designed so that run-off and siltation rates could be measured. In no time the enclosed areas began to regenerate remarkably. Many of the sceptical cattlemen began to acknowledge the evidence. In 1945, representatives of the Soil Conservation Board met with licensed cattlemen and an agreement was made to control grazing.

During her time on the Alps, Masie Fawcett was influential in the control of ground damage caused by the construction of the Hydro-electric scheme.

In 1953 Alec Costin joined the Soil Conservation Board. He had been occupied for several years with a reconnaisance survey of the high mountain catchments of Victoria. His report in 1957 revealed the serious nature of the degeneration of plant cover. Grazing was considered to be the major culprit in damaging the water-holding capacity of the alps. The moist spongy moss beds were destroyed by stock and fires. The cattle were attracted to the bogs, not only for the palatable plants, but also for the water supply contained in them.

In 1958 Miss Fawcett in collaboration with Professor Turner of Melbourne University published what was to be the first scientific evidence of the effects of grazing removal on Victoria's alpine vegetation and the resultant water capacity.

As we know, over the intervening years controls have increased over grazing in these precious areas.

The next morning, we were to meet at the Buckety Plains at 10 am but many of us set out earlier. Nothing could be more pleasant than exploring the bush on a warm summer day. We parked our cars under the ancient gnarled snow gums *Eucalyptus pauciflora*. Amidst the grass and herbs of the mountain meadows, sorrel was in full flower and the alpine burr *Acaena montana* and

plaintain *Plantago euryphylla* grew amongst the soft *poa* or snow grass. We walked down hill in the timber line skirting the plain. On a wire fence surrounding part of the cattle corral we saw a brilliant flame robin. We found some *Vellea montana* which our leader, James Turner, had said grew there. Across a bog on a rising slope the contented cattle lay. On prodding an islet of sphagnum moss millions of tiny gnats rose on the cool mountain air. We found the pretty light green cushion plant Knawel with its twin flowers, *Scleranthus biflorus*. The fallen limbs of the snow gums were a stark indication of the reality of this country in winter time.

The convoy got under way at 10 am passing Rasberry Hill where a bronze plaque commerorates the opening of the Bogong High Plains road. Passing Strawberry Saddle we noted the yellow kunzea in bloom, *Kunzea muelleri*. Fifteen miles short of Falls Creek we came upon the first sign of the Kiewa Hydro-electric Scheme. It was a water race known as Langford West. Up here the trees are sparse. We came upon wandering cattle and we enjoyed the good views. Far to our right were two small patches of snow on a distant range. Away on our left shoulder was Mt Cope, and in front, the fire tower on Mt McKay, our destination in the afternoon.

We now came to the first experimental plot on our route. It was a more recent one (1970), established by Melbourne University. Later on we visited those established by Masie Fawcett in the 1940's. The 1970 plot included vegetation not found in the 1940 plots. Having heard on the previous evening all about the history of the Bogong High Plains, we were indeed most interested to visit the plots that were set up by Ashton, Papst and Williams in New Species Valley. Closeby were two small areas, one fenced with barbed wire, presumably to let the rabbits in, and the other fenced with wire netting. Herbs we saw growing in this valley included:-

Richea continentis with stiff spiky leaves
Celmisia
Craspedia, or billy buttons in bloom
Australina muelleri, or smooth nettle
Kunzea ericifolia
Ranunculus graniticola - not in bloom
Senecio lautus, fireweed
Pentachondra pumula - a stunted heath with red berries
Gnaphalium nitidulum , shining cudweed
Olearia frostii, Bogong daisy bush in bud
Hypolirion novae-zealandiai, or sky lily which only grows above 4000'

At Marm Point we visited the experimental plot established by Masie Fawcett in 1946. Dr Gillbank pointed out how the shrubs became a nursery environment for new grasses. The big question: with the senescence of the shrubs will the heathlands become grasslands? Up here we found the *Olearia frostii* in bloom. Also *Euphrasia collina, Prostanthera cuneata* together with *Orites lancifolia* were blooming within a copse of snow gum. *Stackhousia pulvinaris*, a mat plant with its five creamy petals, *Trachymene humilis* of the silver aspelia *Asteria alpina* with its red berries beginning to appear.

A clear mountain stream only half a metre wide and edged with strong tufty sedge babbled its way across the snow plain. One stalk of white gentian, purple eyebright, trachymene and sky lilies added colour to the banks. Almost in flower were the alpine sundews. Leek orchids *Prasophyllum alpina* and mud pratias *Pratia surrepens* also pleased us. Ollie Thompson found a stunted tree violet bush *Hymenanthera dentata* growing beside a sheltered rock. These shrubs are like bonsais up here.

By now it was time to settle down to 'munch our lunch' and to celebrate the day - Australia Day, with verse.

Mary Austin

At lunchtime, as it was Australia Day, Mary Austin, Gwyn and Phil read 'My Country', 'Clancy of the Overflow' and 'The Drover' - with the back-drop of the mountains and the plains flora at our feet. It was very well received and much appreciated.

This stop was at the commencement of the walk to Cope Hut and many people, as well as some of our members, did the walk, even a coach load of visitors. We estimated about 40 cars were parked along the sides of the road and others coming and going all the time we were there.

After lunch we visited the nearby wet area where the Tasmanian Bladderwort, *Utricularia monanthos* grew. It was like a tiny Fairies Apron. Also *Parantennaria uniceps* was shown to us and as it was so small we would not have found it. This plant doesn't have a common name. It was about 1" high with bristle-like tips to the 1/2" leaves and with tiny daisy-like flowers with no rays. The Dwarf Buttercup, *Ranunculus millanii* flowered in these damp areas.

Then we moved on the Rocky Valley Dam after inspecting the third exclusion area showing how plants grew where the cattle couldn't graze. Up towards Mt McKay we stopped to see the tiny silver Edelweiss, *Ewartia nubigena* which Dorothy assured us was nothing like the European Edelweiss. There was plenty of Alpine Celery in this area as the cattle had been excluded for some time. The male and female flowers are on separate plants and easily differentiated. The blue daisy with the bushy habit and pinnate leaves was the Hairy Cut-leaf Daisy, *Brachyscome rigidula.* The Alpine Mint-bush, Lance-leaf Orites, Silver or Snow Daisy and the deep orange Billy Buttons were still with us here.

Most of the excursion then continued on to the top of Mt McKay to admire the beautiful view. Then on to the nearby stream where the Silky Daisy *Celmesia sericophylla* grew. It has velvety silky grey leaves and larger flowers than the Silver Daisy. There was even a small waterfall to enhance the enchantment of the stream. *Montia australasica*, the White Purslane, added to the beauty with its white flowers. the Robust Willowherb, *Epilobium billardierianum* with its pink flowers, golden Billy Buttons, *Craspedia glauca*, Mother Shield Fern and the leaves of the Austral Dandelion, *Taraxacum aristum* all added interest and beauty.

We proceeded by the loop road to Howman's Gap along a winding, rocky road which was worth the distance to see the Alpine Mint-bush, the Christmas Bush, *Prostanthera lasianthos,* the Tall Riceflower, *Pimelea ligustrina* with its large heads and a stop to admire plants of the Ovens Everlasting, *Helichrysum stirlingii* which was about 4' high with large clusters of pure white flowers.

On to Howman's Gap for afternoon tea; back to Fall's Creek by bitumen road and then to camp. The evening meal, which was catered for, consisted of 3 courses and then coffee and cakes to follow. So concluded a very friendly and enjoyable weekend.

Bon Thompson

SPIDERS Talk by Arthur Hall, 28th February 1992

Spiders are invertebrates (they bave no backbone) and their body structure consists of two segments: the cephalothorax and the abdomen. The cephalothorax is covered with a shield called the carapace, and contains the brain, poison sacs and stomach. Most species of spider have eight eyes (some have only six). The abdomen contains the heart, lungs, digestive tract, silk glands, trachae and reproductive organs, and on it are located the spinnerets and lung covers. In general, if a spider is bigger than your little fingernail, it can be regarded as dangerous to humans. Arthur spoke about two main groups of spiders: the Mygalomorphs and the Araneomorphs.

The Mygalomorphs include funnelwebs, bird-eating and trapdoor spiders. These have two pairs of book-lungs and have large fangs which point downwards. Most dig burrows, some having doors. They are aggressive when provoked. When attacking, they raise their front on their 4 hind legs and strike downwards.

Araneomorphs specialize in the use of silk. These have one pair of book-lungs and trachae for breathing, and their fangs point sideways and operate in a pincer-like fashion when biting. This group includes Hunstmen, Wolf spiders, the Red-back spider and the White-tailed spider.

We were then treated to a fascinating selection of slides which showed not only the specimens themselves, but included a number of habitat slides, which gave a better perspective of the spider and added considerable interest for the botanists and birdwatchers.

Slides were embellished with numerous anecdotes drawn from Arthur's considerable experience, thus generating much discussion from the audience - especially about the more toxic species. The Sydney funnel-web *Atrax robustus,* is a mygalomorph spider and is highly venomous and lethal, especially to children. The male is more toxic than the female and has caused about 13 deaths. It took many years to produce an antivenin as it is very complex. The atraxotoxin is attracted to glass and it was not until the glassware was specially coated, that the toxin was finally isolated and studied. No other spider is so toxic to man and it is not known why the spider needs so powerful a poison.

White-tailed spiders, *Lampona spp.* have caused many terrible bites resulting in the amputation of limbs. Many people report that they felt nothing being bitten but symptoms appear 4 to 5 hours later. Arthur recommends that if you see a white-tailed spider and you suspect that you may have been bitten, it's best to go straight to the doctor (with the spider in a jar for positive identification), just in case. A great deal still needs to be learned about these species as they can cause death. It is not known if the health of an individual affects the reaction to a bite. Care also needs to be taken when identifying them, as heavily pregnant female spiders change colour and lose their white spot.

The Red-back spider *Lactrodectus mactans hasselti* is widespread throughout the world. It is known as the Jockey-cap in Western Australia, the Katipo in New Zealand and the Black Widow in North America. It is known for the red or orange streak on its abdomen although this is not always present. They produce coccoons in summer which contain 50 to 300 spiderlings. As spiderlings they are capable of travelling aerially for hundreds of kilometres on gossamer, and have been known to land on ships at sea. There are about 2000 Red-back spider bites per year, and there was a fatality rate of 1 person per year until the advent of the antivenin in 1930. The spider is most active at night and spins a very strong web, as it catches not only insects, but lizards, mice and beetles. It attaches two lines to the ground and has about six to eight vertical lines weighed down with sticky droplets. When the animal blunders into the web, it dislodges the web attachment and the prey is hoisted up into the net.

The fish eating spider is an aggressive spider which will jump at you about 30 cm at a time if provoked. It can outswim fish and will take fish up to 15 cm long, even though it only grows to about 5 cm across itself.

The mouse spider *Missulena insigme* lives in a burrow which is about 2.5 cm in diameter. It is a very strong spider which capable of killing and taking 1 to 2 day old chicks. There is a case of a farmer's wife who, noticing a chick missing from the incubator, traced along a line of thread and found the dead chick outside. She tried to pick it up, only to find the chick apparently stuck to the ground. On trying harder, she lifted the chick, with the spider firmly attached to it.

In the course of the evening Arthur covered many other species of spider, and their enemies: birds, bandicoots, antechinus, frogs, geckoes, wasps, flies; and their mortal enemy, the scorpion. A lively discussion ensued as members of the audience asked questions and related their experiences. All in all it was a fascinating and enjoyable presentation.

Ken Savage.

EXCURSION TO ANDERSONS INLET

A small group of Field Naturalists met at Tarwin Lower on an invigorating cold windy day. We were greeted by Mr & Mrs O Brewster and Mr & Mrs G Rowe who were our leaders for the day.

We drove to Fisherman's Jetty and as the tide was high (3 hours late) no river flats were showing, with the result we did not see the profusion of birds as seen on the screen the previous night. Some birds were observed on the Mangrove Islands which were identified as Sacred Ibis, Black Swans, Masked Lapwings, and Little Pied Cormorants.

Mrs Rowe commenced to tell us that Spartina Grass was becoming a menace in the Inlet. (refer to extract at end of this article)

The DC&E have made a nature trail along the shore of the inlet. Vegetation seen along the trail was *Acacia sophorae* (Coast Wattle), *Bursaria spinosa* (Sweet Bursaria), *Leucopogon parviflorus* (Coast Beard-heath), and Noddy Club Rush. On coming to a break in the vegetation we were able to see where the Spartina Grass has formed islands close inshore. Walking further we came to an old bent banksia tree which was home to a beehive that had been there for many years - bees very much in evidence! At another opening on the track, looking across to the north side of the inlet was another long string of Spartina Grass Islands. We could well understand why the DC&E are concerned about this menace.

We drove to a viewing tower between Point Smythe and Venus Bay which overlooks a flat area consisting of Reeds, Rushes, and Glasswort. In the distance, two mobs of kangaroos were evident; one group lazing in the sun and the other standing around feeding. Maher's Landing can be seen on the other side of the inlet from this view point.

It was now coming up to lunch time and we drove to Fisher's Reserve, a picturesque and shady spot. This reserve was named after a well loved school teacher of Tarwin Lower, who was a descendent of the pioneer Fisher family. Here one of the members saw a koala ensconced in a pine tree.

Our next and last stopping place was the Bald Hills Wetland Reserve. Here also a nature trail has been constructed by the DC&E which leads to a bird hide and a wetland area. Two separate areas along this walk have a bridge over the swamp. One was covered in Pond Weed. Further along the route a *Polyscias sambucifolius* (Fine Leafed Elderberry) was growing about 5 or 6 feet high. All the while we were walking, fluttering about in the trees were a family of Grey Fantails and Blue Wrens giving us an aerial display. Also growing were many young *Melaleuca ericofolia* (Swamp Paper Bark). Eventually we arrived at the bird hide which must have been built by a 'Birdo'. It was a half hexagon shape, and inside a long bench seat was on the viewing side. Above this, at a very convenient height, was a shelf to rest your elbows and then of course the opening for field glasses - very luxurious!!

This wetland had been a natural depression in the land, and one end has been blocked off and the water allowed to drain into it from surrounding creeks. Also two nesting islands can be seen in this wetland. This once was a part of the historic Tullaree property. The birdos recorded White-faced Heron, Coots, Black Swans, two species of Cormorants, Black Ducks, Welcome Swallows, Hoary Headed Grebes, Great Egret, Shovellers, Black Falcon, Grey Teal, Royal Spoonbill, and the lovely Yellow Robin in a bush nearby. In a dead tree was seen an old Eagle's nest.

On the way back we spotted two species of orchids: *Chiloglotis reflexa* (Autumn Bird Orchid) and a late flowering *Dipodium punctatum* (Hyacinth Orchid).

Just as we arrived back at the cars, rain started falling. We thanked our hosts for the lovely day, and commenced our homeward journey.

Peg Wall & Valma Plant.

REPORT OF A CONFERENCE ON SPARTINA IN ANDERSONS INLET, MAY 1991



SPARTINA GRASS

Spartina, known as rice grass, was introduced to several sites in Andersons Inlet about 50 years ago. At the time, landlolders planted it for prevention of erosion and, possibly, land reclamation. It spread very little until the 1960's when it suddenly 'took off' and spread very rapidly.

Requiring regular tidal immersion in salt water it forms a pioneer plant community between low tide and high tide levels, colonising the intertidal zones of estuaries. Fragments of the fleshy rhizomes can grow into new plants and the fertile plants form seeds profusely. The grass can grow to one metre high. Each plant spreads and thickens by vegetative means, merging with others and eventually forming extensive meadows. Dr. Ken Boston, who has studied the introduction of *Spartina* into Australia, estimated that by 1981 *Spartina* occupied 64 ha of Andersons Inlet and, in places, was causing vertical accretion of sediments at the rate of several centimetres per year.

Spartina occupies mudflats, below and above the level normally occupied by the white mangrove. When *Spartina* has built up the level of sediment in front of existing mangroves, young mangroves become established among the *Spartina*. Established mangroves, behind this new growth, become water logged and die. The final outcome of this competition between mangroves and *Spartina* has not been studied in Australia, but overseas the *Spartina* dominates, replacing mangroves, until the level of sediment builds up to the extent that the *Spartina* dies, or is replaced by saltmarsh.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING of the LVFNC Inc. on 23rd March 1992

8 members present and 3 apologies.

Finance

Cheque Account	$364.94
Investment Account	$2540.31
Conservation Account	$535.01

General Business:

1. Calignee Sth Rd/ Sunday Rd SECV block. B. & O. Thompson going with DCE to identify ecosystems.

2. Traralgon Tip. Proposed extension in west towards Traralgon Creek Rd. Remnant vegetation threatened. B. Thompson referred matter to Landscape Committee who will handle the issue. Proposed extension is on SEC land, and DCE will identify trees for SEC and EPA. Present tip site expected to last for 5 years.

5. Naturalist. Still need new editor. Looked at cost of production for coming year.
 Total cost = $85/month (Photocopying - $55/month. Postage - $30/month.)
 Predicted cost for coming 12 months is $1020, compared with $765 for last year.
 This is over $11 per member and magazine subscription is currently $10 per member.
 Have undertaken to keep subscriptions the same for next 12 months, but will foreshadow a rise for 1993.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Report:

Presented draft submissions on :

Wilderness in Australia - Issues and Options
Treefern Management Plan for APPM Forests Burnie
Baw Baw National Park Proposed Management Plan

Written away for Bio-diversity Conservation paper from Canberra to comment on by 1st May

Helped SEC nurseryman to identify plants and collect seeds required for rehabilitation projects.

DCE rang re significant plants in Traralgon South Forest Reserve as CFA are to burn a border round 2 sides of the reserve.

DCE will do survey of trees on extension to tip site at Traralgon South with view to collect seeds when trees are fallen if they are of suitable species.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LVFNC Inc. on 27th March1992

Election of Office Bearers:

Vice President No 2	2 year term	J. Blucher
Vice President No 3	2 year term	L. Long
Secretary	2 year term	no nomination
Treasurer	1 year term	N. O'Reilly
Publicity Officer	2 year term	no nomination

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	SECRETARY:	MEETING:
Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Acting Secretary Mrs G. Trainor LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 343659 Assistant Secretary Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

Subscriptions:

Due March 31st. Payable to Honorary Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly, RMB 7691, Tanjil South 3825

Naturalist: $10 **Family: $20** **Single Member: $15**

Subscription to Club includes 'Naturalist'

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Mrs Wendy Savage
'Eurabbie'
Earls Road
Yarragon South 3823
Phone: 056 342246

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 22nd May 1992 at 7.30 pm
Speaker:	Dr Neville Rosengren, whose subject will be The Newer Volcanoes of Western Victoria
Excursion:	Saturday, 23rd May Meet at 10 a.m. at the Old Railway Engine, Yarragon.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday, 1st June. Meet at the home of Mr and Mrs J Blucher, Jeeralang West Road Jeeralang Junction.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

June 21st - Tree Planting - from 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Braniffs Road.
Enquiries Ph (051) 22 3237

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm Staff Room, Churchill Campus Kurnai College Switchback Road, Churchill

"MY LITTLE MATES"

During the summer months spiders become more active and noticeable around the garden and house. The presence of spider webs is the obvious indication that spiders are active and have decided to make your home their home too. Different spiders make different types of webs for catching food but many spiders don't make webs.

Daddy-Long-Legs *Pholcus phalangoides*, although an exotic species, is commonly found around Australian homes. These spiders are easily recognised by their enormously long legs and body pattern. They make an untidy tangled web to capture their food of small insects. These spiders live under our house but in the last few weeks three have decided it is more comfortable to live inside than outside the house. The three errant daddy-long-legs seem content now living in the kitchen and inside foyer. When gently touched, the Daddy-Long-Legs spiders adopt a defence mechanism by getting 'the shakes'. I recently observed one Daddy-Long-Legs was actually a mummy-Daddy-Long-Legs. She was carrying her egg-sac around in her palps which is a characteristic of the species.

Jumping spiders of the family *Salticidae* are commonly seen outside the house on plants or on the brick wall of the house. Although this species is only five millimetres in body-length it jumps distances four times its own length. These spiders have flaps either side of their abdomen which they extend on jumping to provide 'wings'. They jump as a means of transport, to catch their food and in courtship. I observed two Jumping Spiders on the house wall a few weeks ago engaging in a courtship display. After several minutes the pair disappeared into a small crevice presumably to do whatever has to be done when spiders fall in love. These spiders make an irregular shaped egg-sac with a small web, which presumably protects the egg-sac.

Wolf Spiders of the family *Lycosidae* are commonly seen in the garden. There are many species of Lycosa and all are ground-dwelling. A feature of wolf spiders is the habit of the female to carry her egg-sac around attached to her abdomen. When born, the young spiderlings are carried around by the mother wolf spider by clinging onto her abdomen. I have seen female Lycosa speciosa and Trochosa sp. carrying their egg-sacs and young. Some wolf spiders use their chelicerae to dig a burrow for their home.

The Bird-dropping Spider, *Celaenia kinbergi* was another interesting visitor to our garden. This spider camouflages itself in trees and shrubs and sits with its legs folded tightly to its body. It has an interesting feeding position. When hungry it hangs head down and spreads its front two pairs

of legs apart, and waits for a moth to appear. My Bird-dropping Spider laid six spherical, dark brown egg-sacs, and each egg-sac was distinctively marked in a black criss-cross pattern. This is a distinguishing feature of the species. When hatched there were hundreds of Bird-dropping Spiderlings running around, each a miniature replica of its mother.

There are a number of other spiders that share our residence. The Grey House Spider, *Achaearanea tepidariorum*, lives outside around the kitchen window, while *Oecobius annulipes* prefers to welcome visitors by making its home in the outside front porch. As spiders are part of the fauna of most households, I'm sure a number of 'my little mates' can be found at your address.

ROB de SOUZA-DAW
Churchill

It is interesting to note that the White-Tailed Spider is recorded in the New Zealand Entomological Society's Newsbulletin.

From Puketitiri (72km NE of Napier): "A man was bitten just above his collarbone. He had received the bite two weeks before he had shown it to me. He thought the spider must have been in his shirt when he put it on. The wound was still infected and sore and his left arm had some numbness. The spider was identified as *Lampona cylindrata* Koch. Since then many specimens of this spider have been seen on the weatherboards of the man's home." (T. H. Davis)

PIED CURRAWONGS

Currawongs, alias Bell-Magpies, are becoming much more numerous throughout Australia, and are invading urban areas, particularly in winter. There are also many more around the Latrobe Valley (and particularly vocal on the Yallourn Golf Course on Thursday, 7/5/92). Like most large omnivores, they eat eggs, and nestlings, so may pose a threat to smaller species. The Bird Observers Club is conducting a survey on the food of Pied Currawongs, especially their use of berries of garden shrubs (cotoneaster, privet, lantana, peppercorn, etc). If you are interested to assist in the survey forms are available from the B.O.C., P.O. Box 185, Nunawading, 3131.

DESCRIPTION: Large Magpie-size. Black, white rump, undertail and band at end of tail, plus large white wing markings, like epaulettes. Large yellow eye. Comes in flocks. Conspicuous at ski resorts. Loud, musical call with echoing quality.

VICTORIAN WADER STUDY GROUP

Last month some of our members spent a day with this study group whose objective was to capture, band, and record Pied Oystercatchers. Although there was little success in capturing the oystercatchers those attending had an enjoyable and rewarding day. Members are assured of a welcome if they wish to attend any of the Study Group's activities. For further information contact Clive Minton (03) 589 4901 (H).

May 31	Queenscliff ---	Pied Oystercatchers
June 14	Rhyll ---------	Pied Oystercatchers
20	Barry Beach ---	Pied & Sooty Oystercatchers
July 4	The Gurdies ---	Eastern Curlew
12	Long Island, Hastings. ---	Eastern Curlew
August 1	The Gurdies ---	Eastern Curlew
2	Barry Beach ---	Pied & Sooty Oystercatchers

CONSERVATION REPORT - APRIL 1992

We have had further communication with the S.E.C. and L.R.C. regarding a census of the trees which grow within the Loy Yang project with a view to seed collecting.

Jodey Hoey has requested a plant and bird list for the Heyfield tip area.

Two submissions have been made on:

1. The National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity.

2. Tasmanian Wallaby Management Program.

UNIQUE TO GIPPSLAND

The native flora of the Latrobe Region includes many interesting plants. The region's native species include some that grow naturally only within the region and some others that are very rare throughout Victoria.

The Creeping Pomaderris *(P humilis)* which has only been recorded growing in Holey Plains State Park, is a low shrub with bright golden flowers and velvety hairs on the leaves.

The Holey Plains Mint Bush, another plant unique to the Latrobe Region, has not yet even been assigned an official botanical name. The bushes are delicate with sparse leaves

and deep violet flowers. As the plants are palatable to animals they are regularly "pruned".

In the Yarram district the pale flowered trees of Sticky Wattle *(Acacia howittii)* occur as the main area in which the plant has been recorded. Other records of the natural occurrence in other parts of the State are only for small numbers of plants.

Wilsons Promontory is the "type area" of the Promontory Daisy-bush *(Olearia allenderae)* which is only recorded for one other area of Victoria. It is a shrub with white flowers and small leaves. The Pink Berry *(Cyathodes juniperina)* with its white heath flowers and bright berries, grows mainly in Tasmania, but reaches the Victorian coast in three areas including Wilsons Promontory.

Morwell National Park was proclaimed because the Tree Orchid *(Sarcochilus australis)* and the Oval Fork-fern grow within its boundaries. The Oval Fork-fern *(Tmesipteris ovata)* belongs to the plant family containing the simplest vascular plants living today. Another rare fern, the Skirted Tree-fern *(Cyathea marcescens)* now considered a natural hybrid, grows in the gullies of the upper reaches of the Traralgon Creek.

Amongst the eucalypts of the region, one of the rarer species is the Yarra Gum *(E yarraensis)*. It is not plentiful anywhere in Australia.

There are many interesting and rare terrestrial orchids growing in Gippsland. Fisch's Greenhood *(Pterostylis fischii)* with its long point to the hood and the Spiral Sun-orchid *(Thelymitra matthewsii)* with its leaf in a spiral around the flower stalk are two of the rarer orchid species.

All of the plants which have been mentioned, except the Tree Orchid, are on the official 1990 "Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria" list.

BON THOMPSON

(This article was contributed by Bon Thompson to "The Gippsland Magazine" and was complemented by a set of photographs by Ollie Thompson. The magazine is produced quarterly by the Latrobe Regional Commission)

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Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

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Due March 31st. Payable to Honorary Treasurer: Mrs N. O'Reilly, RMB 7691, Tanjil South 3825

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JUNE 1992

ISSUE No. 342



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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 26th June 1992 at 7.30 pm
Speaker:	Mrs Bon Thompson, whose subject will be "Keying Out Ferns".
Excursion:	Saturday, 27th June Meet at 10 am in the Bulga Park car park. BYO portable BBQ etc. Visit information centre after lunch.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday, 6th July. Meet at 10 am at the look-out on Coach Road, Yallourn, for excursion to Lake Narracan.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

June 21st - Tree Planting - from 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Braniffs Road. Enquiries Ph (051) 22 3237

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm Staff Room, Churchill Campus Kurnai College Switchback Road, Churchill

WHITHER THE WADERS

It is a mystery how birds manage to fly such vast distances, how they manage to navigate their way from their breeding and feeding grounds, and from whence they come and go. Brenda Merlis and the Victorian Wader Study Group are attempting to find the answers to some of these mysteries. Her talk "Whither the Waders" was not intended for you to learn your waders in one easy lesson - an impossible task given the number and similarity of the wader group, compounded by cryptic plumage that we see the waders in in the winter of the northern hemisphere.

It is true, as Brenda pointed out, that some people object to the birds being handled, however, there is no other method of obtaining the necessary information about where the birds go and using this information to preserve the staging posts where the birds stop to replenish their resources to enable them to continue their migration to their breeding grounds. Only in this way can the long term survival of the migratory wading species be assured. One such staging post is Queenscliff, where it was noted that populations of Red Knot rose and fell over the migratory season, but nobody knew where they went. A program of banding these birds was undertaken and one day in November 200 Red Knot were banded and two weeks later four birds were recaptured in New Zealand. This information acknowledges the importance of Queenscliff as a significant staging post and can be used to press for the preservation of that environment.

Isolated pockets of wader research had been carried out in Australia for some years but there was no group to liaise and co-ordinate information. In 1976 Dr David Robertson began using mist nets to catch waders at Werribee Sewage Farm. In 1978 he was joined by Dr Clive Minton, who introduced cannon netting to the area, with a great deal of success, and the Victorian Wader Study Group was formed; catching, banding and taking biometric measurements and generally collecting data which was published in the Bulletin. By 1981 it became evident there was a need to co-ordinate the activities of the various groups and the Australasian Wader Studies Group was formed under the auspices of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union to conduct regular counts at specific points throughout Australia to determine wader movements into and out of areas and also a population monitoring program to monitor numbers, breeding success and mortality of waders. This sort of information is vital when habitat destruction threatens long-term survival of wader populations.

In 1983 Dr Duncan Parish set up a group in Kuala Lumpur principally to identify wetlands of importance to migratory waterbirds and to promote their conservation. Within two years the emphasis of their work changed

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progressively from species studies to wetland habitat studies, combined with training and education and the name was changed from Interwader to Asian Wetland Bureau. A.W.B. now has representatives throughout most of the countries covering the East Asian Migratory Flyway and all aspects of wetland ecology, research and management, etc. are covered in its program of educating the local people in how to make the best use of their land and manage their resources on a sustainable yield basis.

There are four or five flyways throughout the world that migratory waders use to get from their breeding grounds to their winter feeding grounds. Apart from a few exceptions nearly all migration occurs in a north-south direction. In Australia the flyway of interest to us is the East-Asian flyway from Eastern Siberia through China, Japan, Indonesia, to Australia. Occasionally a vagrant migrant species appears in Australia that should have taken another flyway (such as the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which should have gone to South America but was seen at Werribee Sewage Farm recently).

The waders' habitats are usually vast expanses of mud - a very uninviting environment. Brenda showed several slides of different locations, the most local one being Stockyard Point, which was the site for the Oystercatcher banding the following week.

It is important to understand the technique of cannon netting used to catch the birds and the care that is taken in the setting up of the cannons and nets. The object of netting is not only to catch birds but to ensure that no bird is damaged or injured in the process. Only experienced banders are permitted to remove the birds and band them and the less experienced people act as runners and carriers. In addition to banding, the birds are often weighed and wings and bills measured. The weighing of birds is an important indication of their readiness to migrate and the distance that they can migrate before they need to feed again. Some birds such as the Turnstone and Great Knot can put on 72% of their normal body weight and can travel astonishing distances of up to 7000km before stopping. Birds are now colour marked, sometimes with a spray applied and sometimes with a coloured leg band or flag. There are obvious advantages to the visual identification from which the bird's location can be easily recognised.

Brenda showed some excellent slides of some of the waders found throughout Australia, many of which are not seen in Southern Australia. The one that fascinated me was the albino Godwit, which was known to live for seven years (between 1981 and 1988) which is most unusual for an albino. The photographs were taken in not very ideal conditions, often crouched in a small hide for several hours. However, the results were some superb slides at close range of a wide variety of different species. A lot of information is learned from radar and Brenda showed some slides taken from a camera attached to the radar screen. The camera was allowed to run continuously for two minutes, off for one minute, and on again for another minute, thus indicating movement and direction. The result was streaks on the photographs which were small groups of 25 to 30 migratory birds.

Brenda's talk finished on an optimistic note with some conservation measures already being taken by many SE Asian countries as a result of the bird banding program. Some problems still exist such as Korea, which has a program to reclaim 90% of its wetlands. However other countries are replanting mangrove swamps on a sustainable yield basis.

Brenda gave an interesting, informative, and thought provoking talk which also had its humorous moments.

DAVID STICKNEY

REPORT OF APRIL EXCURSION TO NOORAMUNGA MARINE AND COASTAL PARK

Saturday, April 25th, gave promise of another pleasant autumn day, and so it proved. We crossed the hills by devious routes by forest, farm and winding creek flats, and were probably the last car to pull into the Old Port. Our party was met by leaders Terri Allen, local naturalist, and Sue Taylor, of D.C.E. They welcomed us and gave us a little history of the area, both early and recent.

Angus McMillan reached the site of the Old Port in February 1841. Looking over the expanse of salt water at high tide he concluded that he had found the long-desired port for Gippsland. Just before that time the stranded passengers from the grounded "Clonmel", January 1841, who camped on Snake Island, had been rescued and returned to Melbourne. There they told their tale of wide inlets and deep channels, bordered by open country. These stories prompted a group of business men and pastoralists to form the Gippsland Company and they chartered the "Singapore", 300 tons, to do some exploration on their own. After much searching they settled on what was to become known as the "Old Port", and there they unloaded their horses and supplies. (We may presume the tide was high!) Some clearing was done and a village of huts and tents, plus a store, was erected. However, the locality was an awkward place from which to ship fat cattle. After a couple of years the deeper anchorage of present Port Albert was discovered and the whole settlement moved there.

D.C.E. has opened a picturesque walking track along the foreshore, through massed and shining bushland of Manna Gum, Saw Banksia and Grasstree. The Victoria Conservation Trust, aided by public subscriptions, has purchased an adjoining reserve of the same lush vegetation.

Well, the walkers walked and the botanists dawdled and held grave consultations, adding something like thirty extra species to the official plant list; not bad, considering nothing much was in flower. A couple of weed plants were noted; the South African Melianthus, Tufted Honeyflower, a garden escapee; and European Gorse. Both may be easily removed. Orchids are a feature of this sandy country in season.

The return walk was along the beach, the tide being very low, showing up the mangroves and the Spartina. After lunch at the car park members walked back to inspect an old Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*. Its dense umbrella of contorted limbs sheltered a roosting colony of Nankeen Night Herons, quite a bonus for us as sea birds had been few.

The museum at Port Albert had kindly been opened for us and we spent some time browsing among its treasures.

En route for home a stop was made at the old Alberton Cemetery, a large expanse of native grasses and sedges. We walked through to the Albert River. In earlier days the centre roadway here was graced by an avenue of tall pines, probably the same Stone Pines we had seen at the port. The trees were removed and the blackened stumps provide perfect habitat for spectacular fungi. For many years we knew these great golden toadstools as *Pholiota spectabilis*. Today, they appear in the handbooks as *Gymnophilus pampeana*

After the usual expression of appreciation by our President, Mr Rayment, to the leaders of the very enjoyable day, we wended our various ways homewards.

ELLEN LYNDON
(Reference "Story of Gippsland", Chas. Daley)

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC (MAY 1992)

FINANCE:	Cheque Account	$ 531.09
	Investment Account	$2540.31
	Conservation Account	$ 535.01

GENERAL BUSINESS:

January Campout 1993. James Turner visited site at Combienbar. Accommodation adequate with 4 renovated houses accommodating 8-10 people, with cooking facilities. Meeting/common room and suitable camping sites nearby. Cost probably around $10/night.

Club Library. Magazines will still be catalogued and kept, but newsletters will only be kept for 2 years.

Morwell River Wetlands Creation by SEC, Gippsland Waters and LRC. Club opinion sought on removal of willows to replace with indigenous wetland species. Club in favour of project, from information received.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Submissions: Management Program for Short-tailed Shearwaters in Tasmania.
Management Program for Brush Possums in Tasmania.

Jim Blucher presented his report on the Rehabilitation Committee.
Completed census and forwarded list of trees on the Loy Yang Project to Paul Devlin of SEC and John Grimes of LRC.

Completed half-yearly census on Blackberry Project at Callignee and forwarded to Neil Ward, DCE, Yarram.
Forwarded list of plants identified on excursion to Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Reserve which were not on the official list.
Provided information on eucalypts of Jeeralang area for student from University College at Albury.

Received DCE report "Relative conservation values of SEC Land and Crown Land blocks at Traralgon South".

Nine club members helped at various times over the 3 days of tree planting by school children at Wirilda 13th-15th May.

S.E.C. BEES

Walking in the park recently I happened to glance upward at a solid sub station pole, hung over with all sorts of accessories. There was a bee swarm entering a small round hole, maybe a centimetre across, in the concrete pole. Everybody seemed to wish to enter or leave at the same instant. The congestion was terrible. A greasy damp area surrounded the hole.

Imagine a hollow concrete pole packed with honeycomb, packed with honey. What a reservoir of sweetness! What a surprise for the maintenance crews!

These bees do not look like the big Italian feral bees. I searched the lower reaches and found a body in a spider's web. Less than half the size of an ordinary bee, very hairy or woolley, they have a nasty-looking "beak".

I find I have very few references to the bee tribe so can only conclude it is one of our many native bees. Will have them identified.

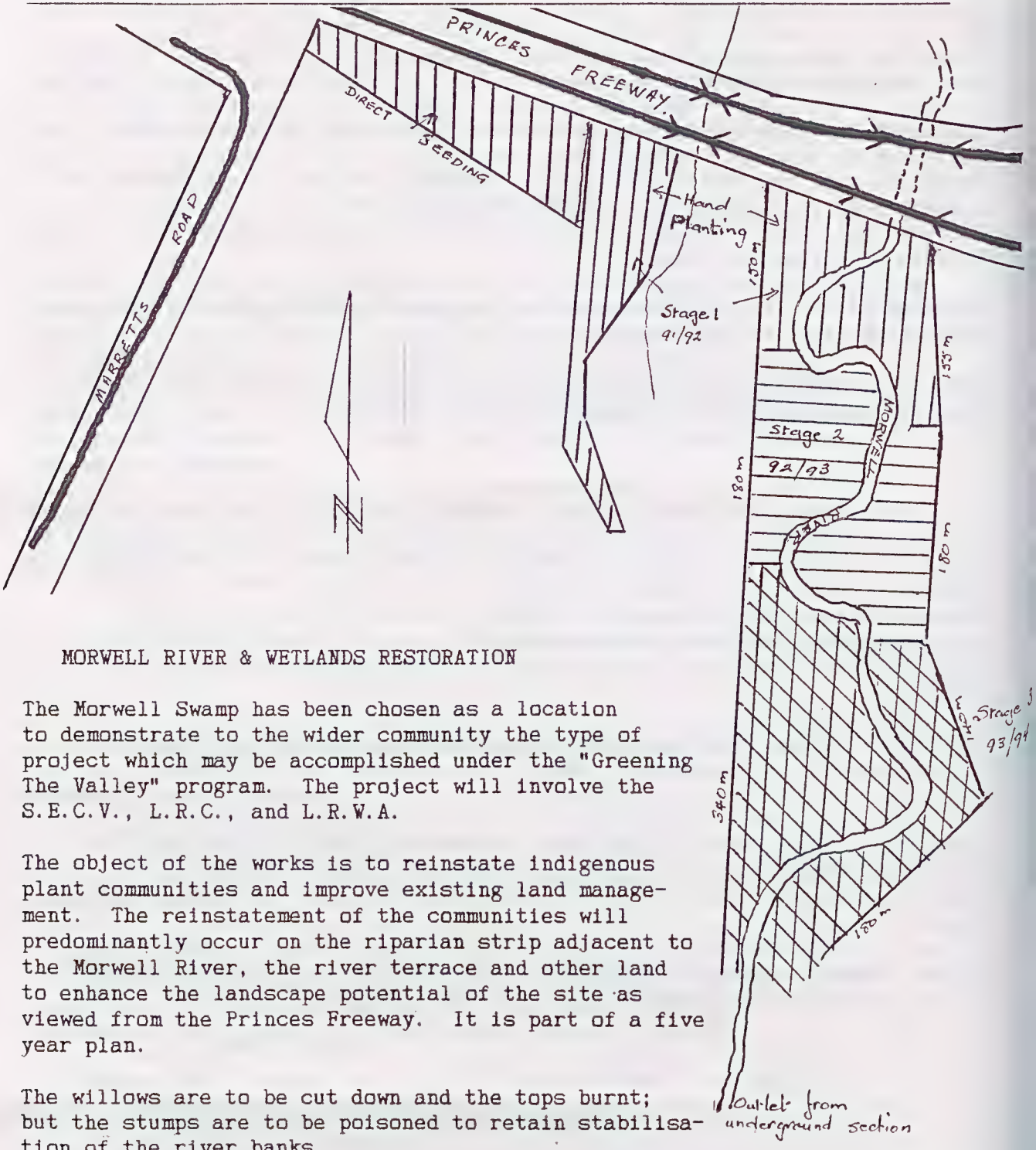
ELLEN LYNDON

SECRETARY LVFNC

Ron Carey has volunteered to assist with secretarial responsibilities and it is anticipated that this will be confirmed at the next business meeting.

MORWELL RIVER & WETLANDS RESTORATION

The following item on Page 6 was contributed by Bon and Ollie Thompson



MORWELL RIVER & WETLANDS RESTORATION

The Morwell Swamp has been chosen as a location to demonstrate to the wider community the type of project which may be accomplished under the "Greening The Valley" program. The project will involve the S.E.C.V., L.R.C., and L.R.W.A.

The object of the works is to reinstate indigenous plant communities and improve existing land management. The reinstatement of the communities will predominantly occur on the riparian strip adjacent to the Morwell River, the river terrace and other land to enhance the landscape potential of the site as viewed from the Princes Freeway. It is part of a five year plan.

The willows are to be cut down and the tops burnt; but the stumps are to be poisoned to retain stabilisation of the river banks.

The species to be planted include *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *E. melliodora*, *E. rubida*, *E. yarraensis*, and *E. viminalis*; *Acacia melanoxylon*, *A. mearnsii* and *A. dealbata*; *Bursaria spinosa*, *Cassinia aculeata* and *C. longifolia*, with *Helichrysum dendroideum* and *Solanum aviculare*.

It is to be hoped to ultimately have a wetland that is more attractive to a greater number of birds, perhaps including migratory birds.

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	SECRETARY:	MEETING:
Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Acting Secretary Mrs G. Trainor LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 051 343659 Assistant Secretary Mrs W. Savage 056 342246	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

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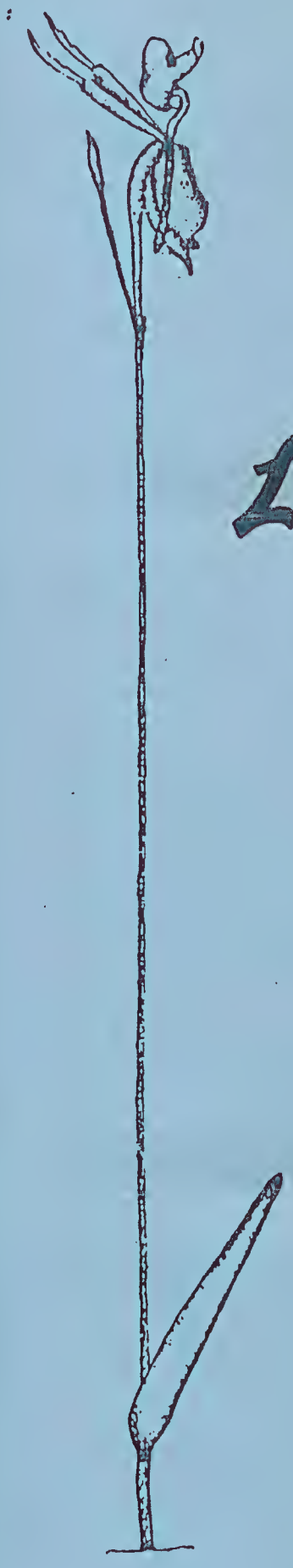
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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 24th July 1992 at 7.30 pm
Speaker:	Neil Terrill whose subject will be "A Wolf In Sheep's Clothing - The Ozone Layer".
Excursion:	Saturday, 25th July Meet at **7.00 PM**, at the Look-out Tower in Coach Road.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday, 3rd August. Meet at 10 am at the corner of Clarks Road and Tyers-Yallourn North Road for A.B.C. Wirilda.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

June 21st - Tree Planting - from 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Braniffs Road. Enquiries Ph (051) 22 3237

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

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AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm Staff Room, Churchill Campus Kurnai College Switchback Road, Churchill

VOLCANIC EXCURSION ON 23rd MAY
LEADER - DAVID THOMAS

First stop was at an old basalt quarry on the escarpment of the Strzeleckis, south of Yarragon and close to Settlement Road. There we saw old lava flows with typical columnar formation (commonly of hexagonal cross-section). It was noted that weathering rounds off the corners and the crystalline structure was seen to be finer near the upper levels. Overlaying the solid lava was a slightly messy and almost fluffy mixture of ash, rock and mud.

Nearby were some unusual formations that were probably pillow lava, which would have been formed when hot lava poured into the sea. This seemed to contradict current views on the relative timing of the Strzelecki block uplifting and the volcanic activity. There were additional probable pillow lava some kilometres further south on Settlement Road and there was also indication of laval flow over a cliff of pre-existing 'country rock'. Much of the lava had been leached of the more soluble salts and is now reduced to bauxite, containing mainly aluminium salts.

After an unscheduled lunch stop at our place in Jindivick to escape the cold weather, we visited another old quarry in Quarry Road and saw volcanic flows typical of the older period in Eastern Victoria (35 - 50 million years ago). Here we could see two levels of lava flow, the lower and earlier flow was light coloured and fluffy in its upper levels as a result of weathering before the second flow occurred.

We also noted various inclusions in the basalt - including obsidian, or volcanic glass and chabacite crystals formed in cavities.

Finally we moved on to Beatties Road where there was a range of quarrying equipment including a large rod mill for crushing, also storage hoppers and a number of conveyors.

RON CAREY

LFVHC/BIRD GROUP

On Monday, 6th July, a few stalwarts braved a bitterly cold day to observe the birds along the southern foreshore of Lake Narracan. In spite of the weather the bird count was one of the best the group has had in its five years (or maybe more) of meetings, with a total of 48 different species. We have found that one of the best spots to observe the birds is along a track where wheel marks have left depressions and water provides a bathing pool for the small bush birds which are sometimes difficult to recognise as they flit about in the shrubbery. There is quite a good sized colony of Bell-birds at Lake Narracan, but the bird I find most attractive is the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, which closely resembles the rare Helmeted Honeyeater, and we were able to watch them bathing from just a few feet away. We felt sure we would get our count up to 50 by seeing a swan and even hoped for a sparrow, but they were not to be seen that day. Our next excursion will be on Monday, 3rd August, to Wirilda Park - details inside front cover.

PAT HOLYWELL

FERNS

At our June meeting, club member and local botanist Bon Thompson addressed members on "Keying Out Ferns". She outlined the structure and reproduction of ferns and explained terminology associated with those intriguing plants. Ollie Thompson showed members slides of ferns and frond specimens were provided for those present to key them out.

Appropriately the related excursion was held at the Tarra-Bulga National Park. This is a temporate rainforest park of 1,625 hectares and is of high botanic value. Mountain Ash dominates the park. Myrtle Beech, Blackwood, Silver Wattle and Sassafras provide a lower storey of trees. Numerous ferns, mosses, lichen, liverwort and fungi grow on the forest floor.

Field naturalists met at 10 a.m. Saturday, 27th June, 1992, at the Bulga car park. The weather was more akin to the needs of fern growth rather than those of fern enthusiasts. Led by Bon Thompson, members meandered along the Fern Gully Walk. This walk took us past an excellent specimen of Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), down the walking track overlooking Macks Creek Gully, across Corrigan's suspension bridge, underneath the lower storey of forest trees, Tree-ferns and aged Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) and past numerous terrestrial and epiphytic ferns. The group returned to the Bulga picnic hut for lunch.

While on the Fern Gully Walk Bon identified the following ferns:-

Mother Spleenwort (*Asplenium bulbifernum*) This fern was growing both as a terrestrial and as an epiphyte. Specimens sighted were reproducing vegetatively, that is, they had bulbils on the fronds at the junction of the main veins as well as the normal sori on the backs of the fronds.

Water-ferns (*Blechnum* species) Several were found including water-ferns with both fertile and barren fronds. The barren fronds were very distinctive from the fertile fronds.

Lance Water-fern (*Blechnum chamersii*) Specimens were discovered with both fertile and barren fronds.

Strap Water-fern (*Blechnum patersonii*) These specimens had entire fronds and were frequently sighted along the walk.

Hard Water-fern (*Blechnum wattsii*) Dark green, stiff, broad fronds helped distinguish this species.

Rough Tree-fern (*Cyathea australis*) Bon demonstrated that this species feels rough along the stipe and rachis.

Soft Tree-fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*) It was pointed out that the large fibrous trunk or caudex and the hairy stipe are in contrast to the Rough Tree-fern.

Austral Filmy-fern (*Hymenophyllum australe*) These small ferns are epiphytic and have membranous fronds. They were commonly

sighted growing on tree-fern trunks. Also identified were the Shiny Filmy-fern *(H. flabellatum)* and the Common Filmy-fern *(H. cupressiforme)*

Kangaroo-fern *(Microsorum diversifolium)* This fern was commonly growing as an epiphyte on tree-ferns. Members saw the distinctive net venation of the fronds and specimens were found containing sori.

Mother Shield-fern *(Polystichum proliferum)* These ferns had pinnate fronds and were common along the walk. Specimens were sighted with bulbils developing plantlets.

Finger Fern *(Grammitis billardieri)* This fern had short narrower entire fronds than the Kangaroo Fern and had diverging venation with elongated sori.

Veined Bristle-fern *(Polyphlebium venosum)* is another membranous epiphyte. We found fronds with partially developed sori but the bristle had not yet developed.

After lunch some of the group drove direct to the Park Information Centre. The Centre was opened in August 1990 and contains displays of the local flora, fauna and history. Some more dedicated members walked to the Information via the Ash and Lyre-bird Ridge Tracks. At the Centre the Rangers provided a slide display with an accompanying synchronised sound-track on lyre-birds. They also allowed members to peruse a photographic collection of flora of the park.

The elusive lyre-birds were frequently heard and on one occasion seen along the Lyre-bird Ridge Track. The Crimson Rosellas, though uninvited, joined club members for lunch at the Bulga picnic hut. Other birds identified on the excursion were the Grey Shrike-thrush, Olive Whistler, Pilot Bird, and the exotic Blackbird.

Despite the weather, it was an enjoyable day both for members and the ferns.

ROB de SOUZA-DAW

REPORT TO LVFNC OF OVERBURDEN REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 25TH JUNE 1992

The meeting was held at Morwell Visitors Reception Centre, with Mr Eddy in the chair.

COMMENTS FROM MINUTES: Video: The general view was that in its present form the video was too long - it either needed to be shortened or more information included in such a length of screen play.

REPORTS:

YALLOURN OPEN CUT: The master plan was being further refined. The design criteria were better defined; the vegetation survey was progressing well; the raw data of the soil survey is being

consolidated; preparation of 1:25,000 maps proceeding; land capability analysis completed and plan will be ready for review at the next meeting.

An exchange of information between local open cut personnel and their counterparts in Europe, with respect to how to treat worked out open cuts, was proceeding.

It was agreed that there was a need to keep the public regularly and well informed about the group's rehabilitation activities.

YALLOURN NORTH EXTENDED OPEN CUT: The land capability assessment has been completed and is out for comment; the proposed direct seeding of the forest area may be supplanted by hand planting.

MORWELL OPEN CUT: Landscaping, topsoiling and seeding progressing along the banks and batters adjacent to the Morwell River; three minor dam structures in the bed of the river completed, topsoiled and sown - expected to be filled by the spring rains; re the eastern batters, further plans are being developed for "trial" activities in the summer.
Ultimately the whole of the Morwell River frontage from Eel Hole Creek to the Latrobe River is to be rehabilitated in line with the current activities near the Freeway.

LOY YANG: The presentation of this report was well supported by the use of a current aerial photo of the area - the print was approximately 1.5m x 1.5m; the quality of the water being released to Traralgon Creek is steadily being improved; general repair work to drains and batters proceeding - the rains are finding all the weak points!; grassing of the batters of the first level of the overburden dump progressing favourably; plans are being prepared to enable the overburden stripping operations to be moved from the Traralgon side of the cut to the Sale side of the cut next spring. a rehabilitation plan for a difficult interface area between departments is being resolved; LVFNC Inc tree survey was minuted and thanks tendered.

REHABILITATION POLICY REVIEW: Debate still persists as to the scope of the policy, i.e., should it be directed solely to mining sites or should it embrace all disturbed S.E.C.V. sites, e.g., decommissioned power stations, power line easements, hydraulic raceways etc. If the latter is the case, many new areas of expertise will need to be developed.

DRAFT REHABILITATION PRACTICES MANUAL: The relevant sub-committee presented its revision of the practices manual for comment.
This manual has three main sections:

* where to find relevant contacts inside and outside of the SECV to provide information on the point in question

* the master plan and its details

* implementation practices.

It is a utility version of the former bulky and verbose document; its aim is to get the best information to the people who need it most, i.e, the men on the job. N.B. these documents are principally aimed at mine rehabilitation.

FIELD EXCURSIONS: Further field excursions are being planned on the basis that the best time to see the problem areas is in the winter.

F J BLUCHER
LVFNC REPRESENTATIVE

PLATYPUS HABITAT

Platypus are known to be present in streams throughout the Central Gippsland Region and recent proposed works on Traralgon Creek in the centre of Traralgon had the potential to conflict with known platypus habitat in that area. As platypus have also been recorded in other built up areas in the Region the Department of Conservation & Environment has arranged to hold a meeting on platypus management to broaden awareness on their management needs.

Ms. Kath Handasyde, a research scientist from Melbourne University, will speak on platypus biology and aspects of platypus management in Gippsland streams, including the Traralgon Creek. Ms Handasyde, who is highly regarded in Victoria as a knowledgable scientist and experienced field biologist in platypus management, will illustrate her talk with slides of her ongoing research at Badger Creek, Healesville.

LVFNC has been invited to send a representative to the meeting which will be held at 1.30 - 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 27th August at Traralgon.

At the June general meeting thanks were expressed to Gwyn Trainor for carrying out the role of Secretary whilst Barbara Nielson was ill.

Jack Brooks tabled some new maps of the walking tracks at Mt Worth State Park. These are much more detailed than those previously available.

Appreciation was expressed for Barbara Nielson's donation of her projection screen to the Club.

KOALA'S MENU

On Thursday I noticed a large koala sitting well up a Large-fruited Red Mahogany *(Eucalyptus pellita)*; on Friday the animal was gone, but left some 270 scats on the ground beneath the tree.

I did not see it actually eating the leaves from a number of small branches, but somebody has, and the most scats are beneath the defoliated branches.

F. J. BLUCHER

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC INC (JUNE 1992)

FINANCE:

Cheque Account	$605.09
Investment Account	$2665.69
Conservation Account	$531.61

Passed for payment: Spectrocopy (July) $55

BUSINESS ARISING:

Payment of $100 from SECV (Melb) for consultative services is required to be acknowledged by LVFNC Inc.

A nearby member should be sought at next general meeting to represent LVFNC on Matheson Park (Churchill) Development Committee.

Conservation Council of Victoria membership - agreed to continue $30 contribution but payment to be passed next business meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

VFNCA ANNUAL CAMPOUT 1994 in Gippsland. B Thompson reported that Shirley Westaway of Latrobe Valley Tourism Authority will organise accommodation etc. and provide wallets, given 12 months notice - viewed favourably by Committee.

BUS TRIP TO COOLART - 29TH AUGUST $16 adults; $10 children; $10 deposit required at June or July meetings. No repayment if bus not full; R. Carey to find out Coolart entry fees. Tiger Tours quote $420 for 28 seat bus.

October 10 EXCURSION TO E. GIPPSLAND with Bairnsdale FNC; includes $5.00 boat trip across Lake Tyers. Decided not to hire a bus; numbers to be sought at August General Meeting.

GIPPSLAND EXPLORER HOLIDAYS: Paul Harris offered at least 30% off group bookings for 4WD or bushwalking to Erinundra Plateau, Croajingalong, or Snowy River National Parks.

CONSERVATION CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT (B. Thompson)

1. Forwarded list of trees on Loy Yang SECV Project to DCE.

2. Wrote to Dr Margaret Rowe re management plan for Bunnarong Coastal Reserve.

3. Presented draft submission by J Blucher on Water and Waste Water Management Strategy by SECV.

4. Draft Report on Options for the Rehabilitation of Lake Coleman/ Wellington Wetland Consultative Committee. From L. Long who said it would go to the Minister shortly and work was urgently required to block flows between Lakes Wellington and Coleman.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

CLUB:	SECRETARY:	MEETING:
Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Secretary Mrs W. Savage LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 056 342246 Assistant Secretary Mr R. Carey 056 285203	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

Subscriptions:

Due March 31st. Payable to Honorary Treasurer:

Mrs N. O'Reilly
RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

Naturalist: $10 **Family: $20** **Single Member: $15**

Subscription to Club includes 'Naturalist'

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc.

Contributions on any aspect of Natural History are invited from members of all Clubs and should be addressed to:

Mrs Pat Holywell
31 Quigley Cresent
Churchill 3842
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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting: Friday 28th August at 7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Mary Austin will introduce a visiting naturalist from New Zealand who will speak on "The Flora of New Zealand".

Excursion: Saturday, August 29. Bus trip to Coolart. Adult $16, Child $10: Admission Adult $5, Child $2, Family $12, $3.50 concession. Bus leaves Traralgon Hosp. Carpark 8.30 am Morwell (Opp PO) 8.35, Moe (Rlwy Stn) 9am Trafalgar (Shire Offices) 9.05, Warragul (Queen St Park) 9.15am. Arrive Coolart 11am. Depart Coolart 3.30 pm.

Bird Group Excursion: Monday, 7th September. Meet at 10 am at Coalville Road carpark, Edward Hunter Reserve, Moe.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

June 21st - Tree Planting - from 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Braniffs Road. Enquiries Ph (051) 22 3237

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm
Staff Room, Churchill Campus
Kurnai College
Switchback Road, Churchill

KEYING OUT FERNS

Mrs Bon Thompson's address served to enlighten a few of us on the above subject and then to challenge us all in applying a simplified key to a limited collection of local ferns that she had placed on display. Bon explained that this display was even more limited than had been intended as a flash flood of the Traralgon Creek the previous night had effectively isolated her from her intended source of supply! As a direct result of this only eleven of the intended fifteen specimens were available for the evening, but this proved to be no hindrance to the value of the evening. Bon commented that a full key to Victorian ferns extended to a dozen or more pages.

On the subject of keys in general she indicated that they could take either of two forms - alphabetical or numerical. Both used the same avenues for identification but the numerical form was set out in a manner that offered a more directly steered path to the final answer. In either case each step in the procedure involved deciding which of two alternative descriptions applied to the specimen in hand and then proceeding along this chosen path to a further choice and, eventually, to an identification. Occasionally, a choice may be required between three alternatives.

In making use of a key to ferns it is necessary to know the parts of a fern because the key will refer to fronds, pinnae, pinnules, and the like. Bon went on to explain that the frond of the fern can be divided into pinnae, these can be divided further into pinnules and further again into pinnulets, also that the stem of a fern frond, up to the start of the division, is known as the stipe. The shape of the pinnae etc, are an important feature for identification purposes as are the nature of the veins in them.

The life cycle of ferns involves the production of spores by the mature plants rather than seeds as in the case of the flowering plants. Whereas a seed of a flowering plant is already fertile and can develop into a plant similar to those that it came from, ferns have to rely on fertilisation occurring in a different manner. The spore of a fern cannot grow directly into a new fern. Instead, provided that the requisite wet conditions exist, it grows into a prothallus, the name meaning 'before the shoot'. The prothallus is very small, and for the most part, only one cell thick. The prothallus contains both male and female organs and, in suitably wet conditions, fertilisation can occur and a new fern shoot develop. This shoot initially makes use of the nourishment in the prothallus in the same manner as the shoot of a flowering plant uses the nourishment in the seed. The main difference between the two is therefore the fact that the dormant stage in the fern occurs before fertilisation rather than after it.

The spore is produced in sporangia on the undersurface of the fern fronds in groups called sori and the arrangement and shape of these sori provide a great help in the identification of different ferns. The sporangia (meaning 'spore-sac') are shaped like little balls, fairly thin and with a band of thick cells together with an area of thin cells, all arranged so that, at maturity, and in the right conditions, the sporangia dry, split along this band, erupt and scatter the spores.

Another feature that aids in the identification of ferns is the indusium. This is a protective cover to the sori that exists in a variety of forms in some ferns, but not in all.

At this particular time of the year it is quite likely that sori will be present to aid in identification but, at other times, reliance has to be placed on other characteristics for this purpose.

All of these aspects concerning identification in general were capably illustrated by colour slides taken and projected by Ollie Thompson, and this was followed by a series of slides of specific ferns of local origin to illustrate the particular characteristics of each that facilitated their identification.

Included were:

Soft Tree Fern
Rough Tree Fern
Mother Spleenwort
Necklace Fern
Common Maidenhair
Blackstemmed Maidenhair
Kangaroo Fern
Sickle Fern
Tender Brake
Batswing Fern
Scrambling Tree Fern
Pouched Coral Fern
Fishbone Fern
Ray Water Fern
Mother Shield Fern
Common Filmy Fern
Austral Filmy Fern
Shiny Filmy Fern
Veined Bristle Fern

In the course of projection the opportunity was taken to explain the origin of the common names of these ferns. Bon commented that a little imagination was necessary in interpreting common names but, having heard the reasons for their adoption, it was apparent that they also had a significant role in aiding identification.

Altogether we enjoyed a very profitable evening with Bon and Ollie and came away with the feeling of having a better understanding of key-out procedures in relation to ferns and, hopefully, some degree of confidence in being able to apply them ourselves.

ARTHUR EWEN

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, CRANBOURNE

The Bairnsdale Field Naturalists Club has a bus with extra accommodation available for a visit to the Cranbourne gardens on Sunday, 27th September. The cost is only $10 per person, (BYO lunch etc.). The bus will leave Bairnsdale at 7 am. and arrive at Cranbourne at 11 am. Return trip will leave Cranbourne at 4 pm, stopping for tea in Traralgon at approximately 6 pm. Times for pick-up in the Valley will be arranged. Members who are interested to go on this trip should contact Wendy Savage (056) 34 2246.

The Cranbourne Gardens cover an area of over 200 hectares and contain a number of ecosystems such as swamps, perched lakes, stringybark woodlands and also the last large remnant of what was called the Sandringham Heaths.

OBITUARY

It is with sadness that we record the death of Mrs Janet McElroy on 22nd July 1992 at the age of 88 years.

Mrs McElroy and her husband Ted, who died in February 1984, were foundation members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club. Their interests were mainly allied to flowers and plants.

Mrs McElroy was also a foundation member of the Morwell Horticultural Society and she and Mr McElroy were honoured by that Society by being made Life Members of it. Indeed, it was when the Horticultural Society staged a wildflower show to which many growers contributed native plants from their gardens, that the question arose "Why not form a local Field Naturalist Club?" It was Mr and Mrs McElroy who made the first definite move to this end.

For many years Mrs McElroy worked as a florist from her home. She was also a floral art demonstrator and judge. She and Ted were both keen gardeners and were always very generous in supplying flowers to anyone wanting them for special purposes at any time. Mrs McElroy was also an early member of C.W.A. and a member of the Traralgon and District Historical Society.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mrs Janet Millar McElroy was conducted at the Presbyterian Church, Morwell, on 24th July. It was her wish that she should be buried beside her late husband, Ted, in the Portland Cemetery. This was done on Monday, 27th July at a service held in Portland.

We extend our sympathy to her daughter Janet, and grandchildren Ross and Jenny.

JUNE LUBCKE

IMPRESSIONS OF OUR ZOO TRIP

February 29 dawned bright and sunny, an ideal day for a trip to the Zoo. In keeping with the forecast of a very warm day those waiting at Moe were suitably clad and armed with straw hats and sunscreen. An air of anticipation prevailed as pamphlets on the Zoo's attractions were passed around to the children of all ages on board. We arrived in good time and were able to look around prior to meeting our guides.

Our guides, Penny Trimble and Jenni Ambrose, began our tour with the primates. I apologise that I can't relay much of the information they provided us with as I tend to get distracted at various points or stop to take photos and get left behind. The Chimpanzees and Orang Utans always captivate with their funny semi-human expressions and their complete abandonment of pose. This day was no exception. Sometimes when they fix you with a return look you wonder who is observing whom.

Of course at this particular time the main attraction was the most recent arrival in the primate section, Buzandi. He was the first baby Gorilla that had been born naturally there, and his name which means

"preciousness" in the southern African dialect of the Ila tribe, describes how the staff feel about him. When born a few weeks prior to our visit he had been only skin and bones, but a regime like that for a human baby had resulted in his making very good progress. He was on display through the nursery window, so like a human baby in many respects, asleep on a sheepskin rug with one tiny hand clutching the edge of his bunny-rug. He was surrounded by toys and other nursery gear and would be having injections, as our babies do, for the common childhood complaints as they are vulnerable to these as we are.

The zoo staff told us that these days they concentrate on creating bio-climatic zones and placing the animals in their geographically correct environments rather than in family groupings. The Gorilla enclosure is a lovely area with viewing access points where, if we were lucky, we caught glimpses of the residents quite at home in their man-made environment.

The smaller primates are always great favourites with young and old as they always seem to be quite active and appear to enjoy their surroundings, a far cry from being cooped up in blank concrete cages.

As the day warmed up the rainforest area with its sprinkler system and lush plant growth was a very inviting place.

The guides left us to enjoy the humidity of the Butterfly House at our own pleasure as they are through there often. This is a must for me every trip and some of the residents found me so attractive that I had to enlist help to persuade them to remain behind.

It's hard to compress a day's activity into a short article but I must remark on what a pleasure it is to pass through The Great Bird Aviary. Watching the birds flying free and behaving naturally is a real thrill. I was very happy, this time, to see the large cats so visible and not snoozing in the dark recesses of their enclosures, especially the tigers, which are particularly magnificent.

As always, I missed animals I meant to see, and horror of horrors my young granddaughter missed out on the elephants, and we didn't have time to retrace our steps, so no prizes for guessing our first port of call next visit. All good things come to an end, and it was time to leave. Judging by the subdued murmuring and nodding heads on the return trip, an enjoyable and full day was had by all.

BEA ROBERTS

REPORT OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD 20/7/1992

BUSINESS ARISING: Representative still required for Mathieson Park Committee.
Gippsland Water Quality: O Thompson nominated for Central Latrobe Valley; L. Long for Northern Forest.
October boat trip to Lake Tyers (since filled. Ed.).

FINANCE:

Cheque Account	$ 835.09
Investment Account	$2565.69
Conservation Account	$ 663.61

BIRDS AT BOOL LAGOON

On 7th July 1992 my family and I visited Bool Lagoon which is located 24 kilometres south of Naracoorte in South Australia. Bool Lagoon is a large and diverse freshwater lagoon system providing a natural habitat to a variety of wetland wildlife. However, it is best known for its birdlife with over 140 species of birds that make these wetlands their permanent or temporary habitat.

Bool Lagoon is a reserve managed by the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. It consists of 7000 hectares of wetlands and was established as a reserve in 1957. The lagoon is recognized in the Japan/Australia and the China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreements because of the significance of the area as a summer refuge for migratory waders.

A weir has been built to maintain a permanent supply of water in the lagoon and to act as a flood barrier for downstream farms. Camping is permitted in designated areas and ironically duck shooting is permitted despite the area being a wetland of international importance. No waterfowl identification test is required in South Australia to gain a shooter's licence.

Visitors can take a guided tour on the Tea-tree Boardwalk and inspect birds from a hide amongst the paperbark tea-trees, or wander around Hacks Island on the Gunawar Walk, or view the wetlands from various lookouts, or from the driveway around the lagoon. Exclusive dawn, dusk and nocturnal guided tours are available by prior arrangement at double the cost of the regular day tours.

Our family took the Tea-tree Boardwalk tour with other visitors and we were led by one of the Reserve's rangers. The ranger provided binoculars to those in the tour group and we then wandered along the recently built boardwalk to the hide. We sighted numerous black swans, grey teal, magpie geese, eastern swamphens, stilts, black-tailed native hens, grebes, swallows and other species. In other areas around the lagoon we recognized cape barren geese, egrets, ibis, coots and magpies. The reserve's Guide to Common Waterbirds lists cormorants, herons, bittern, spoonbills, swamp harriers, brolgas, plovers, dotterels, sandpipers, gulls, terns, warblers and a number of duck species, as other common Bool Lagoon birdlife. On the day of our visit there were thousands of birds at the lagoon, and around September the population will increase significantly. The ranger informed us that different species of birdlife breed in the wetlands throughout the year except for the months of June and July.

The wetland flora is critical to dependent wildlife. Paperbark tea-trees *Melaleuca halmaturorum* grow in and around the edge of the lagoon. As many of the old gnarled paperbark tea-trees are dying, strands of tea-trees have been planted to provide continuing habitat for the birdlife. Ibis, spoonbills, egrets, cormorants, birds of prey and some smaller birds use these trees for roosting shelter and nesting.

The drooping sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* grow around the edge of the lagoon. There are separate male and female sheoaks although they were not in flower at the time of our visit. Smaller birdlife perch in the sheoaks.

Two tall reeds, the common reed *Phragmites australis* and the bulrush *Typha domingensis* provide shelter and food for many birds, in particular bitterns, ibis, harriers, crakes, warblers and the grass birds. The reeds also provide habitat for native water rats, snakes and frogs. The water ribbon *Triglochin procera*, grows profusely. It can reproduce sexually with flowers or vegetatively with rhizomes and tubers. Many of the waterbirds feed on this plant and use its leaves for nesting material. We saw large areas where the black swans had dug holes in the wetlands to harvest and eat the rhizomes and tubers.

Water buttons *Cotula coronopifolia* grow from long floating branches to form roots, leaves and flowers when the water level is high. Several were in flower at the time of our visit. Swans and geese feed on water buttons.

Growing in the water was the creeping monkey flower *Mimulus repens* which formed low thick mats of small blue-green leaves. Another water plant was *Crassula helmsii* which forms spongy mats of stems and bright green leaves. Another succulent was beaded glasswort *Salicornia quinqueflora* with its green jointed stems.

Bool Lagoon is the most expansive wetland reserve I have visited. It is located approximately midway between Melbourne and Adelaide. For those interested in Australian birdlife, Bool Lagoon is a place worthwhile forbirdwatching. It is a place worthwhile for the birds.

ROB de SOUZA-DAW

GIPPSLAND WATER -- PUBLIC AWARENESS DAY

Two representatives, Lorna Long and myself, attended a P.R. day at Cowwarr and were taken to see major watercourse repair works at Rainbow Creek (Cowwarr), where $1.8 million was spent, and at Eaglehawk Creek, Glengarry. The aim was to justify future rate increases in the Gippsland Water Zone to cover the high cost of responsible water and pollution management.

My personal thought is that Melbourne's very large population is causing part of the problem via electricity, timber, and paper production, boating, etc., and it won't be very easy to get charges apportioned fairly.

RON CAREY

FIRST INTERNATIONAL TEMPERATE FOREST CONFERENCE 16th & 17th NOVEMBER 1992

Keynote speakers will be Prof. David Bellamy of the Conservation Foundation and Prof. Jamie Kirkpatrick of University of Tasmania. Running over two days the conference will examine the threats to temperate forests and the need for an international action plan to combat the excesses of unsustainable production. Speakers will formulate options to deal with this global crisis. The cost (includes lunches and conference papers but not accommodation) will be $100 for Non-government organisations, others $300.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Secretary Mrs W. Savage LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 056 342246 Assistant Secretary Mr R. Carey 056 285203	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

Subscriptions:

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 25th September at 7.30 p.m.
Speaker:	Norma Smith, who will speak on "Birds of Australian Gardens".
Excursion:	Saturday, 26th September in the Cowwarr or Glenmaggie area. Leaders: June Lubcke and Ollie Thompson, who will be concentrating on birds and wattles. Meet at the Oasis Cafe, Toongabbie at 10.00 am.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday, 5th October, will be to the property of Mrs Lois Sharp at Hill End. Meet at the car park at the Tanjil South School at 10.00 am. BYO lunch, etc.

FRIENDS OF MORWELL NATIONAL PARK

June 21st - Tree Planting - from 10 am onwards. Follow the signs to our current work site from the end of Braniffs Road. Enquiries Ph (051) 22 3237

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm Staff Room, Churchill Campus Kurnai College Switchback Road, Churchill

PARROTS IN OUR GARDEN

One of the best Christmas presents we've been given is an ornamental wire bird feeder with a terracotta dish. It has been the source of enormous pleasure due to the Crimson Rosellas which feed from it every day. It took patience to attract them, as hanging it in the tree outside the kitchen window and filling it with wild bird seed was not enough, even though parrots were often seen in our garden. It was about 3 months before birds started to feed from it, in small numbers and intermittently at first. Now they wait for me every morning and fly in to feed as soon as I've walked away. We've had up to 15 trying to feed at one time, but generally they come throughout the day in pairs or small groups. If there are more than two or three there's usually a great kerfuffle as they swoop in and out to get their share. Juvenile birds are definitely on the bottom rung, and can only feed peacefully on seed which has fallen on the ground. The feeder hangs in a tree lucerne, and at present it's covered in creamy flowers which the parrots nip off and drop on the ground in large numbers as they feed.

At one stage we discovered we were feeding rats who would climb down the chain used to suspend the feeder and sit on the dish feeding in broad daylight, with their long tails hanging down. Sometimes a swooping parrot would send the rat streaking up the chain to safety, but other times the rat would frighten the parrot away. Even when we replace the chain with a long thin wire we were amazed to see a rat feeding from the dish, and scale the wire to escape. They haven't been sighted since, so maybe they decided it was too dangerous!

We have Eastern Rosellas in our garden and feeding in the paddocks from time to time, but they are nowhere near as numerous as the Crimsons, and have never been seen near the bird feeder. I wonder it it's our altitude (400 m at the top of the Strzelecki's at Yarragon South) which makes the difference. Easterns seem to be more common down towards the bottom of the hill, and Crimsons less so.

One morning we were delighted to behold a pair of King Parrots on the feeder, feeding in a stately and leisurely manner as the Crimsons Rosellas kept their distance. Our whole family was lined up at the window watching until they flew away. They haven't returned. Friends down the bottom of the hill, and at Trafalgar have also been visited recently by a pair of King Parrots, once only. We wondered if it was the same pair.

Crimson Rosellas would have to be one of Australia's most spectacular birds, but having so many around makes one a little blaze about them. It's when a guest exclaims in wonder at the sight from our kitchen window that I am reminded how lucky we are.

WENDY SAVIGE

A NEW EDITOR IS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Due to the fact that the Holywells will be moving to Mornington in the near future a new EDITOR OF "THE NATURALIST" is urgently required to fill this position. It is not an onorous task; the main requirement being the ability to type. It is not essential to attend committee meetings.

THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY WOULD WELCOME VOLUNTEERS

GIPPSLAND REGIONAL LANDCARE ACTION PLAN

A plan for landcare in Gippsland is to be drawn up over the next five months. This part of a national strategy to address land degradation. A meeting to discuss this was held in Sale on 10th August. In attendance were members of various govenment departments and about 40 of the 250 community groups that had been invited.

The purpose of the regional plan was outlined as providing:

* a regional overview of land resource problems and solutions
* a framework for co-ordinated action to address priority landcare issues
* a basis for agreement with State and Commonwealth Governments on allocation of funds and resources.

Twenty-eight specific actions are identified in the State plan. Their overall aim is to rehabilitate existing land degradation and to achieve sustainable land management through community action with government support and by a catchment-based approach.

The plan will be produced by an inter-agency planning team who will interact with a reference group whose responsibilities are to advise on issues to be addressed and their priorities, through community consultation. At the meeting it was decided, after much debate, that this reference group of about 10 people should consist of a representative from each of the four Land Protection Regional Advisory Committees (LPRAC) of DCE from the Victorian Farmers' Federation, Gippsland Municipal Association, Industry, River Management, conservation groups and advisory groups to the Rural Water Commission and Department of Food and Agriculture. The inclusion of four representatives from the LPRACs will ensure that the diverse geographic interests of Gippsland are adequately represented.

As the planning progresses, all groups will be informed of developments, but it is up to us to make sure that our views are heard by maintaining contact with the nominated members of the Reference Group.

SHARRON PFUELLER

REPORT TO LVFNC of OVERBURDEN REHABILITATION WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 20th AUGUST 1992.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

Yallourn Open Cut Master Plan The land capability assessment is nearing completion in "block" form - details of "blocks" then will be progressively deveoped.
A water study is in hand - the points being considered include the filling options, i.e., from Latrobe River, Morwell River, or surface water: the liming of filling: the possible effects on other water bodies such as streams, surface water and artesian water.

Yallourn North Extension The plan in hand calls for completing the work on the coal batters, particularly on the northern side, by the deployment of clay, followed by grassing. It is estimated that it will take two years to regrade the western coal batter.
Further discussions have been held with Amcor re removal of pines from the external overburden dump so that the planned hardwood planting may proceed, with the end result of reducing the run-off.

Subdivision fencing progressing well and with it the control of rabbits. The industrial site at the front has been dramatically tidied up: leasing out is proposed.
Over the next several years the southern coal batters are to be transformed into open woodlands. A plan for the total catchment area is being developed.

Morwell Open CutAs reported in June, the area adjacent to Eel Hole Creek has now a good to excellent cover of grass.

The master plan being developed includes attention to -

(i) North east side of eastern overburden dump natural wetland
(ii) western overburden dump final shaping, draining and grassing; Solarpowered doping plant working satisfactorily, controlling run-off quality
(iii) Further work needed on the western drainage path to the Morwell River, particularly the steeper sections, so as to minimise turbidity of run-off.
(iv) Some clay borrow areas to be grassed.
(v) Machinery coal wash down waste water control
(vi) Rehabilitate old unused quarry

Loy Yang Open Cut 1992/3 budget allocation same as last year, $1.4m
Work will mainly be concentrated on the west and north sides of the cut
e.g., * north batters of level one of overburden dump
* north east batters of level two of overburden dump
* land use plan being developed for land adjacent to the cut for leases
* land capability assessment being done to co-ordinate with
* "Greening of the Valley"

Policy Review Final comments to be submitted during next two weeks

Practices ManualA new section "Wetlands" to be developed
Public Relations Comments on public relations called for

Site Inspections Both Yallourn North and Yallourn North Extension open cuts were inspected. The several points mentioned in the reports were demonstrated on the respective sites: the grassing of the regraded batters, the drainage problems and the removal of surplus plant all show results which are a credit to all the "ground" staff.
The high winter run-offs are having their effects on some of the drainage lines, but this only highlights the need for the site overall catchment run-off plan.

JIM BLUCHER
Consultative Group Member

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING OF LVFNC (AUGUST)

BUSINESS ARISING: P Rayment to attend first meeting of Mathison Park Development Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE: DCE re proposed industrial estate near Old Gippstown. Birds to be checked regularly. Survey plants in September and November

PROGRAMME PLANNING MEETING: Wednesday October 7th at I. Petersen's - 6 pm for tea, meeting at 7.30 pm. Bring a plate.

L.V. FIELD NATURALIST CLUB BIRD GROUP EXCURSION TO LAKE NARRACAN - 6th JULY 2992

Species Seen:

Little Grebe
Pelican
Little Pied Cormorant
Black Cormorant
White-faced Heron
Cattle Egret
White Ibis
Black Duck
Wood Duck
Black-shouldered Kite
Dusky Moorhen
Masked Lapwing
Silver Gull
King Parrot
Crimson Rosella
Eastern Rosella
Kookaburra
Welcome Swallow
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
Common Blackbird
Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Shrikethrush
Grey Fantail
Willie Wagtail
Eastern Whipbird
Superb Blue Wren
White-browed Scrubwren
Brown Thornbill
Buff-rumped Thornbill
Yellow-rumped Thornbill
Red Wattlebird
Bell Miner
White-eared Honeyeater
Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater
New Holland Honeyeater
Mistletoe-bird
Spotted Pardalote
Goldfinch
Red-browed Firetail
Common Starling
Common Myna
Magpie Lark
Australian Magpie
Grey Currawong
Australian Raven

JUNE LUBCKE

"WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING" -- THE OZONE LAYER

Mr Neil Terrill's "Wolves in Sheep's Clothing" are the chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) which were widely used as refrigerants and propellants earlier this century. The use of these CFC's led to the well-known thinning of ozone in the atmosphere as a result of destruction of ozone molecules by highly reactive chlorine atoms. Mr. Terrill, former Dean of Engineering and Applied Science at the Gippsland Institute

of Advanced Education (now Monash University College Gippsland), addressed the Club on this topic on 24th July, 1992. His talk skilfully blended the relevant chemistry and health considerations with discussion of the dilemmas associated with scientific and technological progress.

Mr Terrill explained that the story begins at Du Pont Chemicals in the 1930's, when Thomas Midgley found, in the CFC's, an apparently safe, non-toxic refrigerating fluid to replace substances such as ammonia and sulphur dioxide.

Some four decades later, Sherwood Rowland met Jim Lovelock at a conference, to find that the latter had invented a device which could detect minute amounts of CFC's in the environment. Lovelock had already found them in many out of the way places. After pondering the possible "sinks" for CFC's Rowland and a research associate undertook work which led to the publication of a paper in *Nature* in July 1974. Their hypothesis was that the CFC's were broken down by ultra-violet radiation in the atmosphere to leave chlorine atoms in a highly reactive form. Each chlorine atom is capable of destroying some 100,000 ozone molecules by a chain reaction. The ozone layer, 25-35 km above the earth's surface, of course is vitally important to life on earth as it absorbs much of the UV radiation from the sun, particularly UV-B (280-315 nanometres) and UV-A (315-400 nanometres).

The subsequent eruption of concern in the United States was such that that nation had banned the use of CFC's as propellants by 1976. Many other nations remained sceptical until the early 1980's when Joe Foreman of the British Antarctic Survey published findings showing a progressive diminution of stratospheric ozone each summer. The subsequent outcry on a global scale led to the Vienna Convention (March 1985) and the Montreal Protocol (September 1987) on the protection of the ozone layer and ultimately to the London Agreement of June 1990 which saw all CFC's banned from the year 2000.

Mr Terrill moved on to examine some of the health considerations associated with ozone layer depletion, on which the National Health and Medical Research Council published a report in 1989. The likely results of decreased ozone are increases in the incidence of skin cancers and the eye diseases (cateract, pterygium and conjunctivitis) and of damage to people's immunological systems. Australia, unfortunately, has the highest recorded rates of skin cancer, which has three main types: basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas.

Our speaker concluded by noting that the ozone problem is like many other problems in the terrestrial environment which have their origin in activities of the human species. Can we optimistically hope that the global response outlined in the talk will ultimately prove to have been sufficient?

PHILIP RAYMENT

(Compiled from notes provided by Mr. Terrill)

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

DETAILS OF CONTRIBUTING CLUBS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Secretary Mrs W. Savage LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 056 342246 Assistant Secretary Mr R. Carey 056 285203	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

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RMB 7691
Tanjil South 3825

Naturalist: $10 **Family: $20** **Single Member: $15**

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Mrs Pat Holywell
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OCTOBER 1992

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 23rd October at 7.30 pm.
Speaker:	Dr. Peter Mitchell who will speak on "Koalas"
Excursion:	Saturday 24th October "Morwell National Park" Meet at normal carpark at 10.00 am.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday 2nd November will be at 'Wirilda" for ABC count. Meet at 10.00 am. at corner of Clarks Road and Yallourn North Road.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting:	Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm Staff Room, Churchill Campus Kurnai College, Switchback Road, Churchill.

EXCURSION TO COOLART

The sun was shining as we arrived at 'Coolart' at the appointed hour on Saturday 29th August. It was with pleasure we greeted a group of familiar faces, already in the carpark. These included Gwyn and David Trainor, Mary Austin and the previous night's speaker - Mark Hangar.

Our guide for the day, Jon Fallow, suggested a slight change of time-table. Since rain was forecast for later in the afternoon he deemed it wiser to begin with the 'Woodland Walk' and save the covered activities for later.

At the first stopping point, Jon explained that the newly created wet-lands had replaced a former Air Force Training Base. This area already attracts Japenese Snipe in summer, but todays occupants were Masked Lapwings and Sacred Ibis. The rare Wallaby Grass has also started to grow as well as Kangaroo Grass. At the next stop was a Koala, sitting precariously in a bare Manna Gum. The more patient and keener eyed, also spotted a cub in mum's pouch. Some re-planting of Manna Gums has been carried out to replace the over browsed trees. Friends of 'Coolart' were working at the daunting task of weeding out the prolific onion weed. Swamp Gums were in blossom together with Coast Banksia, Clematis, Black Wattle, Heath and Tea-tree.

Clinging to a substantial web(which some people mistakenly thought was a piece of plastic) was a colony of newly hatched Imperial White Butterflies. A theory was put forward that conditions were not suitable for'take off' and that was possibly why the butterfies were not flying away. Just beyond this point was yet another Koala, very actively engaged in collecting leaves for her lunch, seemingly oblivious to the plight of her offspring who appeared to be having difficulty in maintaining hold on Mum's back. This reminded us that we too were ready for lunch, so following the creek we headed back to the house.

The imposing main homestead was built in 1895 by the Grimwade family. It is used as the administrative centre and is almost fully restored. There is a permanent display of Russell Grimwade photographs of the early days. Special exhibitions are staged and on Saturday it was Lynette Koei's enchanting pastels of native animals, birds and farm scenes which filled several rooms, Tom Luxton (founder of McEwans) purchased 'Coolart' in 1937 and had the property declared a sanctuary for native wild life. He created the five hectare lake, then later built several islands, during dry spells, where Sacred Ibis soon began to roost. These have now increased to more than 500 breeding pairs each year.

After lunch our next venue was the theatrette where we were shown slides and given a talk on the history of the property and future plans were outlined. Through the observation windows a Great Egret provided the Cabaret!

After thanking Jon for his interesting talk we made our way to the bird-hides at the side of the lake. Since it was nesting time fir the Ibis there was plenty to see, and it was with reluctance we obeyed the call to return to the coach.

Some birds sighted:-

Grey fan-tail
Superb Fairy Wren
Straw-necked Ibis
Little Wattlebird
White-eared Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater
Common Myna
Blackbird
Australian Magpie
Australian Raven
Welcome Swallow
Eastern Yellow Robin
Grey Shrike-thrush
Willie Wagtail
Red Wattlebird
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
New Holland Honeyeater
House Sparrow
Australian Magpie-lark.
Great Egret
White-faced Egret
Yellow Thornbill
Sacred Ibis
Grey Teal
Blue-billed Duck
Dusky Moorhen
Eurasian Coot
Little Egret
Chestnut Teal
Pink-eared Duck
Purple Swamphen
Masked Lapwing
Little Pied Cormorant
Marsh Harrier
Pacific Black Duck
Black Swan
Hard (White-eyed Duck)

DOROTHY FARROW & JESSIE BURNS.

SMALL FUNGI SEEN AT COOLART

For those who drew my attention to small black fungi in the moss beds at 'Coolart' and thought, because of their superficial resemblance to Cordyceps they might be of that genus, the family was Geoglossum. Several species are known to be here and they are mentioned in European books. I am not clear as to species. See Bruce Fuhrer's book, page 149.

Among the many introduced vines that have run riot in the 'Coolart' coastal sands the asparagus tribe features largely. There are three species, one of which is the cultivated vegetable the origin of which is unknown. The other two are South Africans. All three have escaped from cultivation and have gone wild all over the world. The two ornamentals have been removed from the more respectable name of asparagus and have reverted to their old name of Myrsiphyllum but their species name have remained the same. Often called asparagus ferns they are not ferns but are quite obviously flowering plants which produce hosts of bird-spread berries. The broad leafed glossy M. asparagoides was commonest on Saturday's walk.

Common Dolichos was also common there, another South African. Often grown with purplish pea flowers and edible pods, it too has suffered a name change to Dipogon lignosus. Do not confuse it with the charming little native Twining Glycine, Glycine clandestina that was also present. Allium triquetrum, the Angled Onion is a lily! A noxious weed in three states. We must leave that to the gallant Friends of Coolart. I noticed, too, some of the disgusting Cape Ivy which we knew for so long as Senecio mikanioides. It has now left the company of the fireweeds and become Delairia odorata. It is certainly a bad smell on our roadsides. Did anyone notice how widespread the Gorse is on Mornington Peninsular, both in hedges and as paddock pests? Ulex europaeus?

WEEDS OF COOLART /?

ELLEN LYNDON.

A NEW EDITOR IS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Due to the fact that the Holywells will be moving to Mornington in the near future a new **EDITOR OF "THE NATURALIST"** is urgently required to fill this position. It is not an onorous task; the main requirement being the ability to type. It is not essential to attend committee meetings. The Club can provide an electric typewriter.

THE PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY WOULD WELCOME VOLUNTEERS

TRICHOSURUS VULPECULA (DOMESTICUS)

We have a resident Brushtail Possum living in the eaves of our car port; access is gained through a small opening between the ridge capping and the ridge pole. To reach the timber work of the roof and thence the ridge pole requires mum Possum to climb 2.5 meters up a 40 mm. galvanised pipe roof support.

Last evening (11th September) at 8.15 pm. there was a relatively loud thud out in the car port: as I suspected Possum antics, I took the torch when I went to investigate, rather than putting on the car port lights; about 1.8 meters from the floor was a large Brushtail Possum. She was pointed head down with a firm grip on the 40 mm. pipe and staring across at the 'Pajero' 600 mm. away, not worrying at all about Florence and I who were now within patting distance of her.

Up on the roof of the vehicle was a little blob of fur the size of a goose egg, with two large ears and a little pink nose one end and a tail about the size of your little finger on the other.

There was the cause of the thud we heard!

Even as we watched the little one, the infant uttered a loud plaintive call, similar to the noise a kitten makes if it gets its tail stood on accidently.

The adult Possum responded by wrapping its tail around the pole and, while maintaining a grip on the pole with her hind feet, she swung out slowly until she was at right angles to the pole and reached out with her front feet to get a grip on the roof spouting of the 'Pajero'. With one bound, she was up on the vehicle roof; junior hastily climbed onto her back.

Mother Possum, still ignoring us completely, eyed off the pole, and with another single bound and a thump, she plus junior were safely on their way up the pole.

With a tail quivering sque-ee-eeze, mother, with junior still on board, disappeared into "their" home.

JIM BLUCHER.

NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS OF SOUTH-EASTERN AUSTRLIA
by Leon Costermans

Single copies of the **AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS** to the above publication can be obtained from:-

Leon Costermans
Monash University (Frankston Campus)
Frankston. Vic. 3199

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

REPORT ON BUSINESS NEETING HELD 21/9/1992

BUSINESS ARISING:

Proposed Industrial Estate Moe, plant survey. First survey was Wednesday 30th September at 1 pm. 6 members attended. Mr & Mrs Clark will monitor birds in the area.

Mailing labels. Thanks to B. Thompson who typed the Data Base and J. Larson who has taken over the mailing label production.

GENERAL MEETING and EXCURSION ARRANGEMENTS:

Saturday 24th October Excursion to Morwell National Park. Ranger Rob Howell will probably be there in the morning. Meet 10 am at Carpark. Bring binoculars to look for Koalas. Plan would be to do Foster Gully in morning and Stringybark Track in afternoon. Leaders Rob Howell, Dr. Peter Mitchell and Ken Harris.

FINANCE:

BALANCE

Cheque account	$540.47
investment account	$2565.69
Conservation account	$663.61

PASSED FOR PAYMENT

Spectracopy (Oct)	$55
Moe Ed Centre (Sept-Nov)	$39
Toy Library (Sept-Nov)	$15

N.O'REILLY/J.BLUCHER

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Editorship of Naturalist. Peg Wall is willing to do October Naturalist.

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Meeting:	Friday 27th November at 7.30 p.m.
Speaker:	John Morgan whose subject will be "Grasses".
Excursion:	Saturday 28th November. Related Excursion. Meet at Rosedale in car park near public toilets at 10.00 a.m.
Bird Group Excursion:	Monday 7th December. Meet at car park at Lyrebird Walk, Darlimurla, at 10.00 a.m.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Ph (056) 23 1562

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road car park at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Ph. (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm
Staff Room, Churchill Campus
Kurnai College,
Switchback Road, Churchill.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP AT "BUNDILLA" on Saturday, 12th December, commencing 12 noon. Bring own lunch - barbecue available (or bring your own), also table, chairs, etc. Hot water available.

GOOD HEAVENS

A few weeks ago STARLAB came to the Latrobe Valley. Fourteen local primary schools hired STARLAB from Questacon - The National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra. STARLAB was invented by an American, Phillip M. Sadlerand, and it provides an ingenious opportunity for those of us who are mortals to learn about the heavens.

STARLAB is a portable inflatable dome-shaped planetarium. The nylon/vinyl composite fabric dome is inflated by a fan. Inside t he dome a projector with specially designed mylar plastic cylinders projects the night sky onto the interior of the dome. One cylinder shows the night sky showing the planets and stars of the southern hemisphere while another cylinder shows the constellations.

The dome is 3.5 metres high, 5 metres wide at the base and viewers enter the dome and sit inside to observe the night sky. About 25 adults can be accommodated in the STARLAB and a trained operator controls the projector and outlines features in the night sky (as seen on the inside of the dome). The projection of the night sky can be positioned for the sun, moon and planets for every month. (What you see in the night sky varies from month to month.)

As a practical teaching aid in science education and astronomy in particular, it can be used as a means to identify stars, tell the time from the stars, observe motions of the sun with changing seasons and to learn to use a star map. The operator's manual provides sample lessons for operators on the moon's phases, the seasons and star life cycles.

I visited STARLAB on 7th October, 1992, when it came to the local primary school. Fortunately the operator-teacher is also a member of the Latrobe Astronomical Society. Consequently my experience in the STARLAB was more enlightening than for other viewers in the Latrobe Valley.

The operator-teacher-amateur astronomer showed viewers how to find due south in the night sky by using the long axis of the Southern Cross. Viewers were informed of interesting facts and figures about the heavens, for instance proxima Centauri in the constellation Centaurus is our closest star (apart from our sun). It is 4.37 light years away and one light year equals 9,500,000,000,000 kilometres. It appears that proxima Centauri, so close to us in astronomical distances, may be a bit out of the way for a Field Naturalist excursion.

The mylar cylinder was changed and on the dome appeared the constellations. There were Sagittarious the Archer, Orion the Hunter, Aquila the Eagle, Pegasus the Winged Horse and Scorpius the Scorpion. (Here I had to interrupt the proceedings to inform the STARLAB operator that arachnids have eight legs and not six

as shown in the constellation. This anatomical astronomical discrepancy was duly noted.) Greek mythology and aboriginal legends were featured in the constellations. The viewers were informed of how in Greek mythology Orion came to be in the sky and according to the Pitjantjara aboriginals, how the Seven Sisters ended up in the heavens.

When STARLAB returns to the Latrobe Valley I am sure it would be of interest to local field naturalists. It would mean interested members would have to fit in with the program as organised by the local schools.

A visit to STARLAB is a visit into space. It is also a visit back in time.

GOOD HEAVENS

ROB DeSOUZA-DAW, CHURCHILL.

EXCURSION TO GLENMAGGIE AREA

A month of wet weather made us rather apprhensive about our chances for a dry excursion but the weather relented just in time.

After the usual conflab outside the Oasis at Toongabbie our six cars set out for Cowwarr Weir, noting, as we drove, all the birds that lounged by farm waterholes, sat on fence posts or trees, fed on the ground or floated in the sky. The day's total from all observers was some fifty species.

Arriving at the over-full lake we found the birding very good, ranging from wood-swallows to waterhens. The row of mature pittosporums in flower looked really beautiful and the honey-eaters evidently thought so too. From there our leaders took us by devious ways to a former school site on Schoolhouse Road, near Seaton. It is now a school camp. There were wattles and other flowering shrubs and a patch of a tall hybrid grevilleas was noisy and rocking with feeding honey-eaters, four or five species.

Among the kangaroo grass under the pines a colony of glistening brown Boletus edulis caught the eye. An excellent eating mushroom. To my surprise our English-born members recoiled. Judging by the plethora of illustrated fungi books originating in Britain I had always imagined that the British lived on mushrooms that grow under pines!

Wattles of many different kinds brightened the roadsides and the bush. We stopped again to admire the Golddust wattle, low and lovely, along with several others. Here I picked up a soft toadstool with a delicate netted pattern below. It was a Polypore, P. arcularis. Someone pointed out the scarlet fans of Coriolus also growing on wood. Onward again by red gum and red box lanes we drew in to Glenmaggie Weir for lunch. A light

shower drove us to take shelter which we shared with the travellers from a large city bus and their barbecue! Water was right up the weir wall and several gates disgorged roaring raging torrents a la Niagra Falls. The foggy spray drifted back over the buildings. When I last walked over that weir wall I was only nineteen and the wall still a building.

The Arboretum at the weir is sadly neglected and run down. It is in sore need of a Friends Group. A pair of glorious Wedge-tailed eagles soaring in circles overhead was surely the highlight of the day and all glasses were focussed on them.

Back we went to Heyfield and out to Dawson to visit the Diuris reserve. In their wisdom DC & E have seen fit to put a hot fire through the orchid patch and beyond. We were unable to locate any of these particular orchid leaves as yet but some hardy grassland species have made their appearance. Early nancies, bulbine lilies, milkmaids, chocolate lilies, to name a few. Golden Moth orchids and native yams were bright. In the unburnt area the wattles spoke of spring, expecially the low patches of Golddust wattle, A. acinacea. The birdoes, ever watchful, were rewarded by Olive-backed orioles and a party of White-winged choughs.

We returned to the cars for a welcome cuppa and our Chairman Phil expressed thanks on behalf of all to Ollie and Bon for such a varied and interesting day and we were on our way home.

ELLEN LYNDON.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BITIES GONE?

There has been considerable concern expressed of late years that the frog tribe is getting scarcer. They certainly are in our neck of the woods but, of course, there has been much draining of wetlands. It seems to me that not only the frogs but certain other garden species have completely disappeared.

What has become of the landhoppers, those nimble flea-like crustaceans that lived on decaying leaves and other plant debris. Once they abounded in my yard so that just to move a flowerpot created a perfect eruption of springtails or hoppers. Talitris kershawii is an amphipod, related to the sandhoppers that live under the rotting seaweed on our beaches.

Why have I no Harvestmen any more? Every nook and cranny used to harbour them by the dozens, both large and small. Built like an animated grain of wheat hoisted on four pairs of long slender many-jointed legs, they look like spiders but are not. They are more akin to the mites. Useful garden allies, but they are carnivorous, living on any other small meats that they can catch.

Where are all the flatworms gone? Those ribbon-like worms of the Geoplana family, that are distinguished by pastel colored

stripes that run longways. Once I found one feeding on a dead snail, which reminds me that my snail and slater populations are as robust as ever. I don't use weedicides or insecticides, but wait! In 1986 the Flick Man did treat the underparts of the house to deter the white ants, the termites, altough the black ants took no harm. All this I ponder . . .

ELLEN LYNDON.

VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS' ANNUAL CAMPOUT

Details of next year's Campout to be held on the Labour Day Weekend at Kangaroobie, Princetown, are available from the Secretary.

Dates: 6, 7 and 8th March, '93.

Cost: $75 for accommodation and meals.

Program includes Great Ocean Road, Shipwreck Coast, Beach Walks, Flowers and Birds, Bush Walks and Glow-worms.

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING HELD 19/10/1992

BUSINESS ARISING:

Proposed Industrial Estate Moe, plant survey. Plans for area have been passed, but they will use indigenous vegetation in some replanting. Thompsons will attend meeting re feasibility study for Country Club proposal at Lake Narracan in vicinity of area of bush to be conserved.

Editorship of Naturalist. Need to find Editor. If no volunteer after GM, then only one page of information covering coming events will be produced until an Editor can be found.

Naturalist Production for 1993. Quote has been requested from Spectracopy. Bon has got quote from Gippsland Copiers.

GENERAL MEETING and EXCURSION ARRANGEMENTS:

Friday 27th November. John Morgan - 'Grasses'.
Saturday 28th November. Related excursion. Meet at Rosedale in car park near public toilets at 10.00 a.m.

FINANCE:

BALANCE

Cheque Account	$453.27
Investment Account	$2565.69
Conservation Account	$663.61

PASSED FOR PAYMENT

Spectracopy (Nov)	$55
Postage (Oct-Dec)	$90
Asst. Sec. - phone	$17

N.O'REILLY/L.LONG

GENERAL BUSINESS:

January Campout at Combienbar. Note long weekend is 29th Jan. - 1st Feb., not 22-25th Jan. as on 1992 Program. Other topics discussed - Write-ups for Naturalist 1993, VFNCA Annual Campout, Moe Education Centre Hire, Indiginous Flora & Fauna Assn. Conservation Co-Ordinator's Report was received.

NURAMUNGA COASTAL PARK

This report is submitted E & O E as it has not been checked by the speaker.

On April 24 Julian Grusonn spoke to LVFNC Inc. about his work in surveying the status of the fauna of the Nuramunga Coastal Park (see map). He was invited to carry out this survey by J.Bullocks, Marine Parks Planner, as there was a need to determine faunistic values at ground level, in order to formulate a management plan.

Julian commenced his talk by speaking of the twelve Marine Reserves in Victoria, showing them on a map. He noted that some are small, isolated, and highly degraded. He mentioned the importance, for fish breeding, of the now declining seagrass beds.

The Nuramunga area hosts the New Holland mouse (Pseudomys novachollandia), and rare Swamp Antechinus (Antechinus minimus). It is an important area for a large number of migratory birds, including Caspian Tern (Hydroprogne caspia), Little Tern (Sterna Albifrons), Fairy Tern (Sterna Nereis), rare white-bellied sea eagle (Haliallus lencogaster) and orange-bellied ground parrot (Neophema chrysogaster), all of which are listed under the Flora & Fauna Guarantee.

To begin the survey there was a need to look at the processes which allowed the area to form. Forty to fifty years ago Hummock Island was connected to Ninety Mile Beach. The island building process appears to consist of dunes building up as part of an estuary, then more dunes forming in front of primary dunes, rivers and sea breaking through forming spits and islands and a new estuary being formed. The dune forming process continues and gradually islands made of dunes are consolidated. Sea levels rise and fall, muds and silts are deposited, areas are dissected and filled again by sand. Islands like Clonmill, Boxbank and Hummock become part of an outer barrier. Slides showed these processes and illustrated the faunal populations.

The shallow, sandy, muddy waters of Reeves Beach contain the most southerly mangroves in the country. Boxbank Island illustrated the dune building process and was seen to have Banksia integrifolia woodlands with grasslands beyond, and also a mangrove system. Clonmill Island is eroding rapidly on the ocean side, but building on the inland side, with embryonic dunes showing. Clonmil has an enormous tidefall, extensive grasslands and is a great feeding habitat for waders. Hummock Island is only 1-2 m. above sea level, with grasslands and swamp type landscape. St.Margaret Island had markedly different vegetation on its northern side, consisting of complex heath, one of only two such habitat in the park. St.Margaret Island was the most extensively researched habitat in the survey, and was the only area where a grass frog was caught. Snake Island is a huge area of wet heath, dominated by casuarina. Ninety Mile beach is also an extensive area of heathland. Sunday Island is a good example of island building by dune formation. Gellions Run also provided suitable animal habitats.

The trapping techniques, employed in the survey, were:
1. A pot line, which consist of a drift fence with 20 1. buckets,



NURAMUNGA COASTAL PARK

into which animals drop as they scurry along the fence.
2. Baited cage traps.

The animals, and the habitats in which the researchers found them, were then discussed at length.

Swamp rat (Rattus lutreolus) and Swamp Antichinus (Antichinus minimus) were found on Snake Island. This was the only habitat for A. minimus.

Legless lizard (Pygopodidae Spp) was found only on Reeves Beach and Hummock Island, however Banjo frog was quite common throughout the reserve.

Echidna (Tachyglossus Spp) was found at Reeves Beach, St.Margarets and Hummock Islands. It may have come to the islands during a drop in marine level or have been stranded there at an earlier time.

Eastern Pygmy possum (Cercartetus nanus) was found in large numbers in several places, but Sugar Glider (Petaurus breviceps) was found only on Gellions Run, and Ringtail possum was found there, and at Reeves Beach.

To be continued.

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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Latrobe Valley FNC Inc.	Secretary Mrs W. Savage LVFNC Inc. PO Box 1205 Morwell 3840 056 342246 Assistant Secretary Mr R. Carey 056 285203	7.30 pm on the fourth Friday of each month at Regional Education Centre, Kirk Street, Moe
Sale FNC	Mr D. Macreadie Stoney Creek Rd Cowwarr 3857 051 489251	8 pm on the first Friday of each month Room 13 Continuing Education Centre, Raymond St, Sale
Warragul FNC	Mr J. Brooks 3 Noble St Warragul 3820 056 231563	Monthly Excursion Contact Secretary
Bairnsdale FNC Inc.	Mrs B. Isakson 10 Cumming St Paynesville 3880 051 567546	8 pm on the third Friday of each month Library Community Room, Bairnsdale

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LATROBE VALLEY FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.

Christmas Breakup	Saturday 12th December at Bundilla
Members Night	Friday 15th January. Open theme.
Campout at Combienbar	Saturday 29th January to Monday 1st February. There are 4 houses in good condition accommodating 8-10 people each. Bedding, crockery, cooking facilities supplied. Bring linen and food. Hot water requires wood stove to be lit for a fair while. Good camping spots available. Large meeting room where meals may be taken together. Tariff not specified - suggest about $8/night. Handout and map available.

FRIENDS OF MOUNT WORTH PARK

Action days are the third Sunday of the month. Contact Jack Brooks for details. Phone 056) 23 1562.

FRIENDS OF EDWARD HUNTER BUSH HERITAGE RESERVE

Meet at Coalville Road carpark at 1 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Dulcie Sambell for details. Phone (051) 27 6751

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION LOCAL GROUP

Meeting : Fourth Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm. Staff Room, Churchill Campus, Kurnai College, Switchback Road, Churchill.

"OUCH"

On a recent visit to the Avonlea Garden at Briagalong I spied a blue-tongued lizard trying to eat a snail. The snail was "frothing" and weaving its head around. Thinking it would make a good photo I called Arthur over, but as he tried to get closer the lizard darted under some boards. Then we heard banging noises as the lizard tried to smash the snail's shell. Poor snail - happy lizard.

E. Ewen

NURAMUNGA COASTAL PARK

(Continued from last issue.)

White striped mastif bat (Tadarida australis) was heard vocalizing on all islands, but is hard to catch. Grey kangaroo (Macropus giganteus) was found, utilizing the grasslands, on all islands. Swamp wallaby (Wallabia bicolor) was quite common on Snake, St. Margarets and Hummock Islands and Reeves Beach. Conical diggings were found on Snake Island, but it has not been confirmed whether these were made by Long Nosed Potoroo (Potorus tridactylus) or Brown Bandicoot (Isoodon obesulus). Wombat burrows and scats were found extensively on St Margarets Island, but koala bones, only, were found there. However on Snake Island koalas may have to be removed due to shortage of food.

Bush rat (Rattus fuscipes) was found only on Gellions Run, but the delightful swamp rat (R. lutreolus) occupies all islands, as does Black rat (R. rattus). The latter species may be spreading coprosma, which is taking over from Banksia on Clonmill Island. Clonmill is also being over-run with House mouse. There are cats on Sunday and Snake Islands and rabbits on all but Snake Island. Hog deer and Fallow deer are also present. Introduced species could be considered part of the degrading process.

The data collected on the survey, must now be correlated, preferred habitats noted, and management plans formulated.

Florence Blucher.

ATLAS OF VICTORIAN WILDLIFE

At the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' meeting on 27 November 1992 I agreed to submit completed survey forms listing the fauna found on our field excursions, bird excursions and individual members' fauna surveys to the ATLAS OF VICTORIAN WILDLIFE.

The Atlas of Victorian Wildlife is a computer data base compiled by the Wildlife Management Branch of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Atlas contains locality records of Victorian vertebrate species (including exotics), that is land and marine mammals, birds, frogs and reptiles.

Information for the atlas is provided from a number of sources. One source is from field naturalists and other individuals interested in natural history. The data base is used for a number of purposes including assessing of applications to have species listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Members can obtain computer print-outs free of charge from the Atlas by contacting the Traralgon office of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The three types of information available are -
(a) species list for a selected area
(b) detailed records of particular species
(c) distribution maps of particular species

In order to complete the survey form in the required format, the following information is ESSENTIAL - Date of survey, locality of survey, Grid Reference in either Latitude/Longitude or Australian Mapping Grid. (I can determine the grid reference and latitude providing I know the exact locality of the survey.) Other information REQUESTED includes count of species, confirmation of breeding, e.g. eggs, young and whether the finding was for a dead specimen. For compilation of the type of record I need to know whether the observation was by sight, hearing or indirect e.g. tracks, scats, burrows or diggings. The species lists can be common names, although in the case of reptiles, the scientific name would be preferred.

With the above information I will be able to complete and code where necessary the required information. It is my intention to forward the completed survey forms to the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife in bulk every quarter. I will be pleased to complete the survey forms from members' own records from previous years providing the written lists contain the essential information (as listed above).

Members who observed and identified birds, mammals frogs and reptiles on our field excursions are invited to let me know of their findings. On our field excursions not all members' observations of invertebrates are subsequently listed in the "write-up" in the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist.

Some members may already be completing survey forms for the Atlas of Victorian Wildlife. Members who are participating in FROGWATCH would be submitting Frogwatch Data Recording Forms to the Department and these forms will subsequently be re-directed to the Atlas. To avoid duplication, please do not provide survey findings for invertebrates which have already been or will be forwarded independently to the Atlas.

Please note (at this stage) the Atlas is only interested in receiving details of observations of birds, mammals, frogs and reptiles. Species lists from previous field surveys MUST contain the date of survey, locality of survey, Grid Reference and preferably the other requested information.

Rob deSouza-Daw
Churchill

THE NATURE OF NEW ZEALAND

Introduction:
Mr Mark Hanger was our Club's Guest Speaker on 28th August 1992.

After graduating in Botany from Otago University Mark worked with the N.Z. National Parks Service. Since 1985 he has been personally organizing and conducting natural history tours in New Zealand under the title "Nature Quest N.Z.". These tours are usually custom-designed for societies, groups and companies from mainly U.S.A., England and recently Tasmania.

When I saw the content of the Burnie Field Naturalist Club's itinerary I realized that participants would have opportunities to see things of natural history importance seldom available to persons on the normal tourist route. Now, having been on two of the Nature Quest tours, I have invited Mark to come to us here and tell us about his much loved country. The following is my summary of his illustrated talk.

New Zealand's Uniqueness:
N.Z.'s uniqueness is due to several key factors. Firstly, like Australia, it was part of the vast Gondwanaland; it started drifting away from Australia about 60-85 million years ago and is continuing to do so, whilst Australia is drifting northwards.

N.Z. is the most remote land mass on this planet being now 1500 to 2000 km from Australia. Since its disconnection from Gondwanaland N.Z. has had no direct contact with any other land mass, nor any real competition from any other plant or animal species.

The country was only settled in the last thousand years by the Maori. (Date of arrival approximately 800-1000 A.D.)

European settlement began in the 1790's with whalers and sealers. At that stage most of the Maoris lived in the North Island with only a few thousand in the South Island. So when the Europeans arrived, the country was pretty well intact, natural history-wise. There had been some extinction of bird species, but these were relatively minor.

The absence of any grazing animals was the key to the evolution of the flora and fauna. Only two small bat species made up the terrestrial animals, so N.Z. was considered to be a natural history museum indicating much of what Gondwanaland was like 80-100 million years ago.

With the arrival of European settlers and their grazing animals - goats, sheep, deer, cattle, etc. - extremely damaging changes occurred to the flora and fauna.

Geology:
N.Z. people live in an incredibly recent and geologically active land. The country lies on the boundary of the Pacific and the Indo-Australian plates. In between there is the Alpine fault which is very much the backbone of the South Island. That boundary is a very stressful area with one land mass moving northwards and the other southwards. At the same time the Pacific plate on the east is sliding underneath the Indo-Australian plate causing buckling and the upward thrust of the Southern Alps. Over the space of 3 million years these Alps have risen to 3800 metres and are continuing to rise, indicated by earthquake activity. Mark showed us a geological map showing rock type patterns in the South Island. The land masses in the N.W. have moved some 450 km southwards to re-emerge in exactly matching patterns as in the north. This is particularly noticeable with the iron and magnesium-rich ultramafic rocks.

In the central volcanic zone of the North Island there are 3 large volcanoes: Mt Ngarahoe last puffed smoke in 1975 and Mt Ruapehu blew its top in 1986. Nearby are large geo-thermal fields surrounded by mainly uplifted mudstones which are very prone to erosion. The North and South Islands are very different. The South has very few volcanoes and these have been inactive over the past million years. However the continual rising of the Southern Alps can cause drama such as last year when 11 metres fell off the top of Mt Cook creating a long ugly scar on its northern face.

All around the highest peaks, glaciation is still shaping the landscape e.g. the Tasman Glacier on the east and the Franz Joseph and Fox Glaciers on the west. They are all several hundred metres deep. In the South-west of the South Island (Fiordland) glaciation has totally created the landscape at least up to an altitude of 1500 metres. At that level it was virtually an ice plateau with glaciers coming off it right out to sea. Dusky Sound is 350 metres below sea level. Glaciation has created scenic grandeur for which the South Island is famous.

The moisture-laden Roaring Forties bring 6 to 8 metres of rain per year to the western side of Fiordland. The mountains are composed of granite/gneiss rocks - i.e. exceedingly hard. Had they been of softer material the scenery would have ceased to exist long ago.

Eighty kilometres to the west of these deluges is a rain shadow where the country is arid, receiving only 300-350 mm per year.

Flora:
The plant life has been very much determined by all the above-mentioned factors.

Prior to the arrival of man N.Z. was dominated by tall Podocarp (or coniferous) forests. Very little would have changed since it broke away from Gondwanaland. Of the Podocarps there 5 species: the Rimu (Red Pine) which reaches an approximate height of 50 metres, the Kahikatea (White Pine) 40 metres, the Totara 30 metres, the Miro and the Matai (Black Pine) both about 25 metres. They have straight trunks with no branches until they emerge at the canopy of the forest.

In the far north of North Island the forests are dominated by the Kauri _ the 2nd largest tree in the world, but the largest bulk-wise. There is only the one species and it occurs from North Cape to about 100 km south of Auckland. Sadly, since the arrival of the European there are only 150 hectares of pristine Kauri forest left. These trees are giants measuring 13-14 metres in girth and growing untapered for 30 metres before branching. Thus it has a straight grain, is very strong, very light and very durable. It is particularly valuable for boat building. They are known to live for 2000 years. There is some natural regeneration occurring but planting is being undertaken for conservation purposes. The Government has a restriction on tree felling on private land and a ban on the export of native timber.

The hardwood forests are very different to the Australian forests. They have an almost tropical appearance with vines and perching plants and impenetrable leaves. Some trees have flowers e.g. the Rata (a myrtle) and the brilliant scarlet mistletoes. Below these it is difficult to find an orchid or creeping herb but there is an absolute profusion of filmy ferns and a wide variety of tree ferns - some very similar to Australia's e.g. cyatheas and Dicksonias.

Gradually the ancient Podocarp forests have been superseded by the hardwood forests. Of these the beeches (Nothofagus) dominate. There are 5 beech species - the Silver Beech (Nothofagus menziesii) has become the most invasive. With each glaciation when whole forests can be wiped out, it is the podocarps which emerge as the dominant tree. This is because the seeds are carried by birds whereas the beech seed is transported only by water. Large parts of N.Z. e.g. Stewart Island and Taranaki have no beech trees. The beech forests are very different in character to the podocarps. No well-defined shrub or small tree grows within them. It is almost a mono-culture with tier upon tier of beech trees.

Above the tree line in areas where there are no beech trees, the podocarps give way to sub-alpine shrublands which are quite impenetrable. But where there are beech trees there is a distinct timber line. The cause is one of temperature. To survive, the young beech tree seedlings require an average daily temperature of at least 10 deg. and particularly in order to harden off the growing tips before the onset of winter. Temperatures tend to be slightly warmer on the ridges and cooler in the gullies so one finds the timber line undulating accordingly.

Unlike the ferns, the alpine plants are not all ancient. Prior to the major mountain building period (2 1/2 - 5 million years ago) N.Z. was a relatively low country and therefore had no alpine plants. Also, as Australia has moved northwards the effect of the Roaring Forties has been more intense and thus the conditions tougher for plants to survive. Most of the plants came from Australia but different genera have evolved much more quickly in N.Z. because of its pristine habitats for growth.

Mary Austin

..... Continued next issue

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING HELD 23/11/92

BUSINESS ARISING:

Program Planning as complete as possible. Joint excursion with Bairnsdale to Rotamah Island - seek more details and contact Bairnsdale to gauge interest. Suggest Rawson for 1994 Jan campout - would cost about $100 for weekend. Ask at GM if this is reasonable.

Editorship of Naturalist. Edith Ewan has typed November issue. Gill Bremner is willing to take on job.

Bundilla Christmas breakup venue. Working Bee not required.

Naturalist Production for 1993. Quote from Spectracopy $55/month as last year. Accept, and Bon will inform Gippsland Copiers. L. Long has stencils, ink and paper no longer required - will advertise stencils and ink in local paper and enquire if Spectracopy will buy about half the paper.

January Campout at Combienbar. See front cover for details.

Moe Education Centre Hire. No formal reply as yet - need to know by Jan meeting.

Write-ups for Naturalist in 1993. Outline procedure and start list of volunteers at GM.

VFNCA Annual Campout. List of possible excursions at each of the 2 sites made last meeting. Will ask for interested persons to form a subcommittee at GM. W & K Savage, L.Long, P.Rayment, R.Carey expressed interest.

GENERAL MEETING & EXCURSION ARRANGEMENTS:

Friday 15th January. Members night - open theme.

FINANCE

Balance

Cheque Account		$ 356.27
Investment Account		$2600.00
Conservation Account		$ 663.61

Passed for Payment

Spectracopy (Nov)		$ 55.00
Moe Ed Centre (Jan - Mar)		$ 39.00
Toy Library (Jan - Mar)		$ 15.00
Asst Sec. - phone		$ 27.00
Conservation (travel)		$ 284.30
- Savages	$97.20	
- De Souza-Daws	$19.20	
- Bluchers	$81.00	
- Thompsons (& expenses)	$86.90	

N O'Reilly/R Carey

GENERAL BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

Matters discussed included Wilsons Prom clearing, VFNCA March campout, Printpost, Licola orchid survey, Mathison Park Development Committee, Club details and Club Brochure.

COMMERCIAL USE OF NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

For some time now the Club has been receiving notification from the Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service of applications for permission to pursue proposals for the commercial use of native flora and fauna. The Club has been responding to these proposals.

There are four criteria the Club abides by in these responses:-

a) we will only comment on proposals that we have knowledge of the species under discussion and mainly Victorian species.

b) we consider the proposal will not impair Australia's bio-diversity in any respect.

c) we are happy for Australia to make money from our fauna and flora if b) is assured.

d) we do not agree to the export of plant specimens so that overseas countries can propagate, hybridize, etc. the species to sell back to Australia. We feel Australians should carry out such projects for the good of Australia.

Some of the proposals we have responded to include :-

1. The management program for the Tasmanian Wallaby 1992-4.
2. Management program for the Short-tailed Shearwater in Tasmania - with the harvesting of about 3% of the chicks available.
3. Management program for the Brush Possum in Tasmania - treating the 'over-population' in Tasmania (due to the population growth encouraged by human habitation) as a significant resource and commercially harvested but rigidly controlled.
4. Harvesting portions of skirts of Grass Trees in Queensland to dry and export for making into mats. Plants are on private land.
5. Exporting of Treeferns from private land in Tasmania to be clear-felled prior to plantation planting of eucalypts.
6. Harvesting and export of Gymea Lilies (*Doryanthes excelsa*) from private land near Gosford. Harvesting leaves and flowers on a very restricted basis under independant supervision.
7. Export of snake venom -permits are necessary to collect snakes and to keep them. Most venom will come from captive-bred snakes and from snakes held in long-term captivity.
8. Management of freshwater fishes in the Northern Territory.
9. Harvesting of Bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) from private land in Victoria for purpose of drying and sending overseas as samples for use in dry arrangements.

We have raised no real objections to these proposals; but emphasise the importance of the strict monitoring set out in the proposals.

If members wish to read these proposals they are available in the Club correspondence.

Bon Thompson

LATROBE VALLEY NATURALIST

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